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ARAB TIMES

The Arabian Year Book 1987/88

9th Edition

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THE WORLD THIS MORNING

Boat capsized

NEW DELHI, (UPI): A boat ferrying passengers along a river in western Maharashtra state capsized yesterday, killing 11 people and leaving about 15 missing and feared dead, the Press Trust of India reported.

Defection

PARIS, (Reuters): A Romanian rugby union player, son of the Vice-President of the Romanian Rugby Federation, has applied for political asylum in France after defecting during a tour by his club side, French rugby officials said.

Bus crash kills 12

ALGIERS, (Reuters): Twelve people were killed and 40 injured when a bus and a truck collided yesterday on the highway between Algiers and Oran, the official Algerian news agency APS reported.

French mediator

BEIRUT, (Reuters): French mediator Lucien Bitterlin arrived in Beirut yesterday to try to secure the release of two young French girls held by a Palestinian group.

Hotel fire

BLACKPOOL, (AP): Fire swept through the cabaret of the seaford Balmoral Hotel yesterday morning, forcing more than 100 people from the Balmoral and neighbouring Craig Don Hotel to flee in their night-clothes.

Syrian contacts

DAMASCUS, (Reuters): Syria said yesterday it was in contact with the United States on the situation in Lebanon but it was up to the Lebanese themselves to solve their problems.

Resignation offered

SEOUL, (UPI): Opposition leader Kim Young-Sam yesterday offered his resignation as party leader to take responsibility for the opposition's failure to win last month's presidential elections.

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آج کے اردو صفحات میں

خوست کا محرم شہر میں ہوا

افغان مجاہدین کا دعویٰ

میلے میں شہر کی چٹائی پر

سازدہ پھانسی

بہستان میں فوج کے دروازے کی

دیہی گائیکوں کی

ہنگویش میں اندرون شہر کے

پاکستان اور جمہوریات کے

پاکستان اور جمہوریات کے

WEATHER

TEMPERATURE remains below normal, with light variable to north-easterly wind and some clouds will appear later.

State of sea: slight

High water: 9:45 am, 1:00 pm

Low water: 6:20 am, 5:30 pm

Sunrise: 6:42 am

Sunset: 5:01 pm

Maximum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 16°C 61°F

Abu Dhabi: 15°C 59°F

Falaka: 14°C 57°F

Maximum temperature expected:

Kuwait: 17°C 63°F

Abu Dhabi: 16°C 61°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Minimum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 7°C 45°F

Abu Dhabi: 6°C 43°F

Falaka: 5°C 41°F

Minimum temperature expected:

Kuwait: 8°C 46°F

Abu Dhabi: 7°C 45°F

Falaka: 6°C 43°F

Maltese ship hit in first raid of '88

DUBAI, Jan 2, (Reuters): Iraqi warplanes fired a missile into a Maltese ship carrying Kuwaiti cargo in an apparently mistaken attack in the northern Gulf, shipping sources said today.

In the first confirmed shipping strike of 1988, the missile slammed into the starboard side of the 26,260-tonne bulk carrier Alga 150 miles south of Kuwait yesterday.

The sources said the attack was probably a mistake. Kuwait supports Iraq in the seven-year war with Iran which has led to a succession of attacks by both sides on Gulf shipping.

The missile left a four-foot (1.3 metres) diameter hole, similar to damage previously caused by Iraqi-fired Exocet missiles, in the Alga's hull. The timing of the attack, 1010 local time, coincided with an Iraqi claim of a shipping hit.

There were no casualties and the Greek-owned ship sailed to Dubai under its own power.

Hole

A photographer, who flew over the Alga in a helicopter today, said its crew had tried to cover the hole with sacks.

Iraqi warplanes have regularly attacked tankers exporting Iranian oil but have occasionally fired on ships linked to Baghdad's Gulf Arab allies by mistake.

Earlier, a US warship warned the photographer's helicopter away from two foreign tankers it appeared to be accompanying 25 miles north of Sharjah in the UAE.

The photographer said the guided missile cruiser Sterett was sailing about two miles from the 51,868-tonne Japanese tanker Sun River and the 64,239-tonne Liberian tanker Mary Ann.

The warship asked us to change course when we were still out of sight, seven miles away," he said. "We went close enough to see the tankers clearly and it asked us to leave. It was very unfriendly, which is unusual."

Under present rules of engagement, Western navies in the Gulf only escort ships of their own flag or, in the case of the British, vessels owned by their own country.

Involved

But some of the 80 foreign warships in or near the Gulf have become increasingly involved in protecting other ships.

Iranian gunboats fired machine guns towards a US helicopter as it investigated their approach or a Liberian tanker, the Eastern Power, in the southern Gulf on December 24.

Shipping sources said the helicopter might have prevented an Iranian tanker was later escorted out of the Gulf in a British convoy.

A British Defence Ministry spokesman said the tanker was entitled to an escort because of its British ownership.

Shipping sources said Friday's attack on the Alga indicated the "tanker war" would continue unabated in 1988. "There's not going to be any let-up by either side," one source said.

At least 178 ships were damaged in raids in the Gulf by Iraq or Iran during 1987, twice as many as the previous year.

Khaleda, Hasina hold talks to thwart polls

DHAKA, Jan 2, (Reuters): Bangladesh's two main opposition leaders have discussed ways to thwart a government plan to hold parliamentary elections on Feb 28, opposition sources said today.

Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina, accompanied by senior party leaders, met for nearly an hour at Hasina's home last night after the election commission announced the election date, they told reporters.

The two leaders said in a joint statement they would frustrate a government plan to hold "a farcical election" boycotted by major opposition groups.

Fair

The leaders reiterated their stand that elections in Bangladesh would not be free and fair as long as President Hossain Mohammad Ershad remained in office.

"He thinks he can again fool us and the whole world with his phony elections," Khaleda, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief, said.

"We must prove that his bluff has been called and his days are numbered," she told a meeting of party workers today.

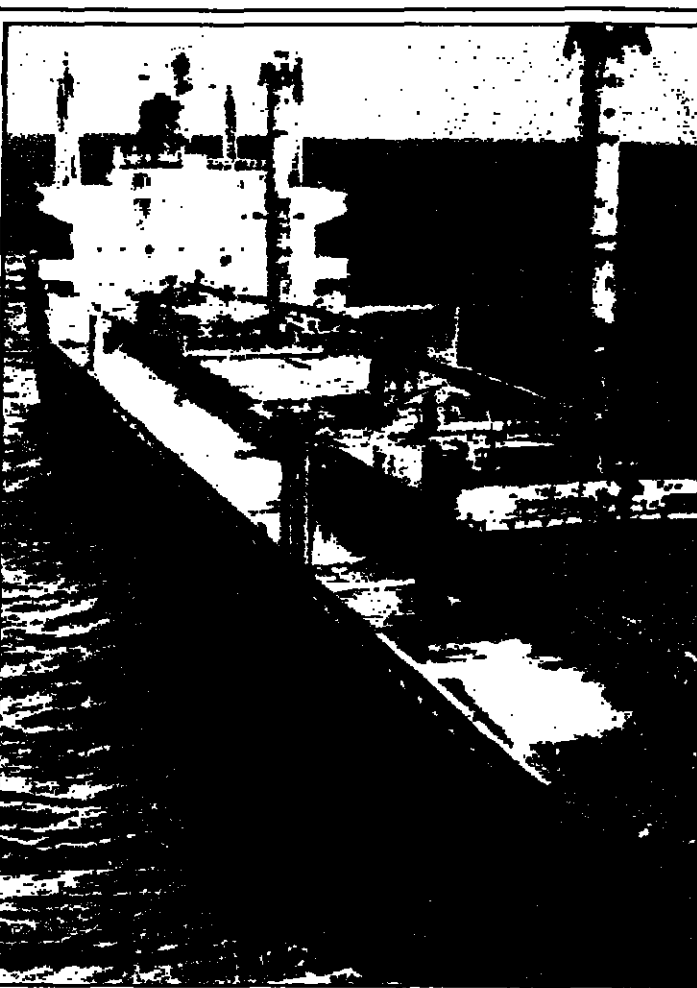
Ershad, a former general, imposed a state of emergency and dissolved the Parliament in the face of an opposition campaign aimed at forcing his resignation.

Power

The election commission, responsible for conducting the polls, yesterday announced the Feb 28 election date.

Opposition leaders said they could participate in elections only after Ershad handed over

(Continued on Page 2)



A large hole (foreground) is seen in the hull of the Maltese tanker Alga which was hit by a missile. (Reuters wirephoto)

Federal rule may be imposed Ruling Tamil Nadu party in disarray

NEW DELHI, Jan 2, (Kuna): Federal rule may be imposed on Tamil Nadu as the southern state is facing political crisis due to a split in the ruling party Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (ADMK).

The political crisis deepened today when Mrs V.N. Janaki, the wife of late Chief Minister M.G. Ramchandran was elected leader of the ADMK legislative party in Madras this evening, thus making her eligible to become the chief minister.

The meeting of the Janaki faction of the party was convened by senior deputy general secretary S. Raghavandam and it was attended by over 97 of the 131 party legislators.

The split in the party appeared after the death of MGR.

Soon after his death Governor S. Khurana nominated Finance Minister V.R. Nedunchezhiyan as acting chief minister. He was asked by the governor to convene the meeting of the party legislators as soon as possible to elect the new leader.

Nedunchezhiyan also announced his decision to run for the post of chief ministership with the support of party propaganda secretary Jayalitha, who was elected general secretary of the party by some party leaders and legislators opposed to Janaki.

Nedunchezhiyan was also unanimously elected leader of the ADMK legislature party at (Continued on Page 2)

Rama Rao corrupt, says court

NEW DELHI, Jan 2, (Reuters): A court upheld allegations of corruption today against N. T. Rama Rao, India's film star-turned-politician, and one of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's bitterest political enemies.

The high court in the southern city of Hyderabad said Rama Rao, popularly known as NTR, abused his position of chief minister of Andhra Pradesh state to benefit his relatives.

The five judges said they had found prima facie guilt on seven charges against him and his government brought in a writ by Dronam Satyanarayana, a member of Rajiv's Congress (I) party.

The judgment did not say that Rama Rao used his office for personal profit but it cited five cases where he helped relatives.

Resignation

Rama Rao declined to comment on the ruling which he can challenge before the Supreme Court. But Congress members immediately called for his resignation.

In political life he swathed himself in the saffron robes of a Hindu holyman and sponsors populist schemes like subsidised food and clothing for the poor.

He has also worked to unite a fragmented opposition against Rajiv, often by playing on regionalist sentiments in a country of 800 million people with 17 main languages.

Political analysts said bad publicity from the ruling could dent his image in the cities but his deity-like status in the vote-rich villages was unlikely to be damaged.

The court rejected another petition for the central government to set up a commission of inquiry into other allegations of corruption.

Druze fire at gunboat as Army imposes sea blockade

JIYE, Lebanon, Jan 2, (Agencies): Druze gunners today opened fire at an Israeli gunboat off their coastal strip south of Beirut after the Christian-dominated Lebanese Army imposed a sea blockade.

The Army's ban on shipping along the 12-mile (20-kilometre) strip triggered threats by Druze leader Walid Jumblatt's fighters to hit Christian ports and rekindle a dormant civil war.

"We declare the waters between Beirut and the Mafoun bridge in the north a military operations zone," Jumblatt's Progressive Socialist Party said in a statement. Jumblatt said today that a government of Arab Lebanon should be set up in areas not controlled by Christian forces.

The 25-mile (40-km) stretch is controlled by the right-wing Christian Lebanese Forces militia. It includes a small naval base for the Lebanese Army at Jounieh, the Christians' main port.

The Druze militiamen fired about 200 rounds from 23mm twin-barrelled guns at the Israeli gunboat, cruising the Mediterranean around noon (1000 GMT), police said. No hits were observed.

Warned

The Soviet-made anti-aircraft batteries in the Shouf mountains southeast of Beirut also opened up at two unidentified jet fighters, that flew at a very low altitude over the Mediterranean.

The PSP warned it would "take the proper procedures" if any vessel was attacked in its zone in line with the Army command's communiqué.

The Army said yesterday all ships, including fishing boats and yachts were banned from plying the ports in the PSP-controlled zone of military operations extending from Khale to the Awali bridge near the southern port city of Sidon.

Meanwhile Israeli helicopter gunships today attacked bases of Hezbollah militia in southern Lebanon, wounding five people, including three commandos, security and militia sources said.

The sources said two US-made Cobra helicopters pounded the Hezbollah bases in an eight-minute raid in and around the village of Meidoun, 13 miles (21 km) north of the Israeli border at about noon (1000 GMT).

Arafat rejects joint control over occupied lands

PALESTINE Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat has rejected the idea of joint Israeli-Jordanian control over Israeli-occupied territories.

Arafat arrived in Kuwait on Friday night from Baghdad.

Arafat said today the United States would accept convening an international peace conference on the Middle East which included the PLO.

"We have information the Soviets told (Jordan's) King Hussein the Americans agree to the convening of an international conference on the Middle East attended by all the parties including the PLO," he said.

Most Arab countries and the Soviet Union have called for a conference under the auspices of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. The US and Israel have to date objected to the proposal which would require representation of the Palestinians by the PLO.

Arafat, who was addressing a rally commemorating the organisation's 23rd anniversary, was referring to Hussein's visit to Moscow last month. The gathering was attended by the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait, government officials and representatives of the sizeable Palestinian community in Kuwait.

Decision

Turning to the occupied territories, Arafat said "the Palestinian command has taken a decision not to use arms during the present uprising in the occupied territories to avoid a massacre planned by the Zionist enemy (Israel)."

"Our people are using stones at present, but they will use other weapons at the appropriate time in future," he added.

Drawing applause from the audience, Arafat said the current protests by the Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories reflected determination to regain their rights, including that of setting up a state "on their national soil."

He recalled a statement by the late US Secretary of State John Foster Dulles that "only one generation will remember Palestine and afterwards it falls into oblivion."

"I now tell Dulles that the third generation... did not forget Palestine," he said.

Arafat vowed the fight will continue, despite the enemy's resources and the unlimited support it gets from its allies in the US administration, "until the occupation is brought to an end."

In an interview with Italian television recorded in Baghdad and broadcast on Friday, Arafat referred to proposals made by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres for talks with Amman to demilitarise the Gaza Strip and place it under Jordanian rule.

"What has been proposed is a form of joint control between Israel and some Arab state in which the Palestinian people would be put under colonial rule," he said. "They want to transform those territories into South African-style Bantustans."

Arafat said the PLO "had never taken part and could never take part in any negotiations of this kind."

He continued: "The desire of the international community and the Palestinian people is to allow the Palestinians the right to build their own independent state."

Arafat thanked Pope John Paul II for appointing a Palestinian, Father Michel Sabbah, as Latin (Roman Catholic) patriarch of Jerusalem. Sabbah will be consecrated at the Vatican next week as the first Arab to hold the post.

"I would like to thank his holiness," Arafat said. "His decision undoubtedly has a moral and spiritual significance. It is a noble act demonstrating great consideration for the Palestinian people."

Hawaii floods

HONOLULU, Jan 2, (Reuters): Flooding from a New Year's day storm in Hawaii forced some 800 stranded people into evacuation centres and caused an estimated \$28.5 million in damage, civil defence authorities said.

Palestinians protest presence of troops

TEL AVIV, Jan 2, (Reuters): Palestinians burned tyres, set up roadblocks and closed stores in Arab East Jerusalem and Ramallah today in protest against the deployment of thousands of Israeli troops and mass arrests in occupied areas.

Palestinian sources said troops shot and wounded an Arab demonstrator who threw stones in Nablus, but the Army denied this and said the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip remained calm.

"Everything is completely quiet. There were no shootings or irregular incidents," an Army spokesman said.

Eyewitnesses said troops arrested a few Palestinians in the West Bank town of Ramallah and welded shut the stores of Palestinians who refused to open for business.

In East Jerusalem, shopkeepers went on strike but no incidents were reported.

Disperse

Palestinian sources said the Army fired tear gas and shots in the air to disperse stone-throwing protesters who shattered the windshield of an Army vehicle in the West Bank town of Ram but the military spokeswoman denied the report.

In occupied Gaza troops in riot gear were out in force but shops were open and there were no reports of protests. A curfew clamped on the Jabalya refugee

Patrolled

Thousands of Israeli soldiers and police patrolled the West Bank and Gaza Strip to quell unrest expected yesterday on the 23rd anniversary of the first commando attack against Israel by the PLO Fatah Movement.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference's "Jerusalem Committee" will meet in Morocco on Monday to discuss violent clashes in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, an OIC source said today.

The source, said OIC Secretary-General Sharifuddin Pirzada had already arrived in Rabat to prepare for the meeting.

Meanwhile a pro-Iranian group has warned British and American diplomats that it will attack US interests in the Middle East if the United States does not stop Israel from killing Palestinians in the occupied territories, the Independent newspaper reported in London.

INTERNATIONAL

Mayor of San Miguel shot dead

12 killed in Philippines in two days of violence

MANILA, Jan 2, (AP): At least 12 people, including a town mayor, were killed in separate insurgency-related incidents in the Philippines in a span of 48 hours ending on New Year's day, military authorities reported today.

A Philippine constabulary report said four people were killed in a battle on Thursday between communist rebels and police in the town of Cataman on Samar Island, 290 miles (464 kms) southeast of Manila.

Gunbattle
The report said three New People's Army guerrillas shot dead Tech. Sgt. Pedro Argenio, a military intelligence agent, outside the university of eastern Philippines, triggering a running gunbattle through the town's

streets as police and soldiers chased the assailants.

Two of the rebels were killed along with a 14-year-old boy caught in the crossfire, the report said, adding that two soldiers were wounded.

Farther south of Mindanao island, six separate incidents left a total of eight persons dead on Thursday and Friday, including Pacifico Ocapan, acting mayor of San Miguel in Zamboanga Del Sur Province, said military officials on the island.

Li. Col. Resurreccion Miravite, the provincial constabulary commander, said Ocapan, 40, was shot twice by a lone gunman with a .45-calibre pistol as the mayor watched a cockfight on New Year's day.

Miravite said Ocapan's

assailant, also a suspected communist assassin, escaped on foot as spectators in the pocked stadium scammed to the nearest exits. The gunman left a note on the mayor's body, saying "He is our enemy," Miravite said.

Ocapan was San Miguel's mayor for six years before he was removed in the nationwide purge of government officials identified with ousted President Ferdinand Marcos in March 1986.

He was reinstated on an acting capacity in November after the mayor appointed in his place decided to run for the same position in the Jan 18 local elections.

Unhurt
Also yesterday, unidentified men gunned down a police officer in Topodoc village near

San Miguel, while another policeman was shot dead by three men while driving a motorcycle with his wife in Zamboanga city, police said. They said the policeman's wife escaped unhurt.

Elsewhere on Mindanao, two soldiers and two militiamen were killed in Davao Del Norte and Maguindanao provinces in ambushes yesterday that were also blamed by the military on the communists.

One civilian was killed and two others wounded when armed men fired on a civilian jeep in Maguindanao, but police said they had not established the identity of the assailants for their motive.

Former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile became the

only opposition member of the Philippine Senate after the other opposition senator joined President Corason Aquino's ruling coalition today.

Sen. Joseph Estrada's move to the Liberal Party, one of half a dozen parties under Mrs Aquino's "People's Power" coalition, had been rumoured for months.

"Since I am now alone, I will do all I can to keep the opposition alive in the Senate," Enrile said in a radio interview.

Enrile and Estrada, a popular movie star, were the only candidates of the opposition Grand Alliance for Democracy to survive the Aquino coalition's sweep of the 23-member Senate in the May 11 congressional elections.

3 blacks killed in New Year's Day South African unrest

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 2, (Reuters): Police shot dead two black rioters and a man was stabbed to death on New Year's Day as political unrest in South Africa's black townships spilled over into another year, police said today.

Well over 2,500 people have been killed since 1984 in the longest and most bloody period of anti-apartheid protest to hit the white-dominated country.

A police patrol opened fire when it was stoned by a black crowd at Dedeswa township, near the Cape Province town of Beaufort West, the police said in a bulletin on political unrest. A black youth was shot dead and another seriously wounded.

At Kallahong, in South Africa's industrial heartland near Johannesburg, a police

vehicle crashed after it was stoned by blacks, the police said. The police opened fire, killing a black man and injuring another.

Imposed
First-hand reporting of township violence has been outlawed by media restrictions imposed under an 18-month-old national state of emergency.

Police said a man was stabbed to death yesterday in Mpata near Pietermaritzburg, one of a cluster of townships swept by black-versus-black violence which claimed at least 268 lives last year, according to local church groups.

Another black man was seriously injured when he was attacked by knife-wielding blacks in nearby Mpumalanga.

Houses and shops were attacked and set on fire in six

townships around Pietermaritzburg, the police said. Six people were arrested.

Struggle
The fighting stems from a power struggle between the conservative Zulu-based Inkatha movement led by chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the radical United Democratic Front (UDF), a loose coalition of some 600 anti-apartheid groups.

Violence around Pietermaritzburg, the capital of Natal Province, escalated towards the end of 1987 despite pleas for peace from Nobel peace prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Church groups estimate that 75 people were killed in the area in December, many of them brutally hacked to death.

Ireland criticises Windscale cover-up

LONDON, Jan 2, (Reuters): Britain's cover-up of the world's second-worst nuclear accident, a 1957 fire at the Windscale nuclear plant in north-west England, has prompted criticism from both the Irish government and British opposition.

According to classified government documents released yesterday after a 30-year interval, a full report on the fire that cited major technical defects was suppressed by then Prime Minister Harold Macmillan.

The Irish government yesterday repeated its demand for the closure of the plant, now a nuclear waste reprocessing facility, renamed Sellafield, that pumps waste water into the Irish Sea.

Radioactive
Irish Energy Minister Ray Burke, speaking in Dublin, said the new disclosures proved the plant was a constant danger to the people of Ireland.

Ireland says leaks from Sellafield have made the Irish Sea the most radioactive in the world.

Britain's Labour opposition spokesman on the environment, Jack Cunningham, said disclosure of the cover-up represented a major boost to the campaign for a freedom of information act.

"Now complete openness must be the rule... we cannot accept that anything like that happen again," he said.

Conservative member of Parliament Richard Shepherd, who is campaigning to reform the Official Secrets Act, criticised Macmillan's decision as a "monstrous dereliction of duty."

"Public opinion may well be in favour of nuclear installations, but we ought to know how risky

they are," the Guardian newspaper quoted him as saying.

Junior Energy Minister Michael Spicer told BBC radio that Britain now had a policy of unprecedented openness on its civil nuclear programme.

But former Labour Energy Secretary Tony Benn, speaking in the same programme as Spicer, said similar cases had been kept secret.

Incidents
"If all the papers over the last 30 years were published today, there would be literally dozens of incidents like the one that has come to light," he said.

No one was killed when the fire broke out in the uranium core of the reactor at Windscale, which manufactured plutonium for military purposes. The fire raged for 16 hours, releasing contaminated particles into the atmosphere.

Atomic Energy Agency chairman John Collier said today the fire led to improved safety standards ensuring a similar accident could not occur today.

"Windscale was a watershed in British and world nuclear safety," he said in a statement.

The world's worst nuclear accident was the Chernobyl disaster in the Soviet Union in April, 1986.

Chain crash
BELGRADE, Jan 2, (Reuters): Two Turks were killed and two other people critically injured in a chain of collisions in a thick fog on the Belgrade-Zagreb motorway today, the official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.

The incident began when a Turkish driver, returning to work in West Germany after holidays, collided with a lorry near the town of Zupanja.



Racial violence flared on New Year's Day on the beaches of the Indian ocean port city of Durban, South Africa, when whites attacked black families who walked onto a beach reserved for whites only. (Reuters wirephoto)

Britain wins injunction against spy memoirs

LONDON, Jan 2, (AP): The government struck another blow in its fight to enforce the secrecy oaths of British intelligence agents yesterday, obtaining a court order stopping the Observer from publishing from the memoirs of a retired spy.

The interim injunction remains in effect until the court hears the weekly newspaper's appeal or until a government application to make the injunction permanent.

The government said it plans to seek a similar injunction against the Sunday Times.

Observer editor Donald Treford accused the Conservative government of using "police state" tactics to censor the press and said his newspaper was considering an appeal.

The government is already embroiled in a legal battle with the two papers over "Spycatcher," another set of memoirs.

Less than two weeks ago, the government lost its fight to turn an interim injunction against the Observer, the Sunday Times and the Guardian into a permanent order barring publication of excerpts from "Spycatcher."

Life remains upbeat without twin brother

QUINCY, Massachusetts, Jan 2, (AP): For the first time in 80 years, John Fuller faces life without the identical twin brother who was his almost constant companion.

They shared a bedroom and a taste for the same clothes, meals and pranks.

But Fuller says that except for "some of the littlest things that trip you up and make the tears roll," he has remained upbeat since his brother Buell died last week. He said optimism was a trait the twins also shared.

Before Buell's death Dec 22, they were separated only twice in their lives: when John preceded Buell at birth by two minutes, and a second time, three decades later, when Buell went into the armed services for two years.

The two never married and lived with their mother until she died 30 years ago. They slept in twin beds in the same bedroom, dressed in identical clothes every day and drove matching mini-vans. Each morning for breakfast they ate half a banana, 20 raisins, a

glass of orange juice and a cup of coffee.

"Now instead of having just half a banana, I have a whole one," said Fuller, "and I'm putting weight on because of it."

Fuller said he began to prepare for his brother's death when Buell moved into a nursing home last summer. He said he visited him every day for three hours and was with him when he died.

When talking about his brother, John Fuller is chatty and enthusiastic. He talks gleefully about a life that sounds like a grand adventure, filled with the kind of games and pranks only twins can play and which the Fullers continued into adulthood.

Fuller recounted the many times the twins fooled others about which twin was which, a practice they enjoyed even while working together at Northeast Airlines. John Fuller was a mail manager and Buell was an instrument technician until they both retired 25 years ago.

Hirohito makes New Year's appearance

TOKYO, Jan 2, (AP): Emperor Hirohito attended a New Year's gathering at the Imperial Palace today, making his first public appearance since undergoing abdominal surgery in September.

The inner area of the Imperial Palace, open to the public only at New Year's and on the emperor's birthday, was jammed with a sea of well-wishers, both young and old, waving thousands of Japanese flags under a clear blue sky.

Standing with other members of the imperial family behind a bullet-proof glass, the 86-year-old emperor waved to the crowd for several minutes and then spoke briefly and clearly.

"I'm happy to see you are well. Thank you for your concern about my health. I hope you will have a good New Year," he said in a strong voice.

Cheers

The crowd replied with cheers and shouts of "banzai," or long life. Then Hirohito left, accompanied by Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko, Prince Hiro, Empress Nagako, who is suffering from leg ailments, did not attend.

"This will probably be one of the last times we'll see him," Trudy Taylor of Sligo, Ireland, said after awaiting three hours to see Hirohito.

The emperor, who has chronic pancreatitis, underwent an intestinal bypass operation at the Imperial household hospital on Sept 22. He has been recuperating in the palace since Oct 8



Hirohito

Rain and winds slam south Britain

LONDON, Jan 2, (UPI): Torrential rain and winds of more than 85 mph slammed into southern Britain early today, downing trees, power lines and swelling rivers to near-flood levels.

Roads were under water in some areas and the London Weather Centre issued a warning urging people to be wary of trees that were weakened by October's hurricane-force storm.

At Gwennap head in Cornwall in southwestern England, gusts of 88 mph were recorded and a barn roof was ripped off in nearby Devon, tearing down power lines with it.

Winds of up to 75 mph along the Kent coast in southeastern England halted hovercraft crossings between Dover and France and jettied services between Dover and Ostend, Belgium.



Street performer strains as he lifts a five-kilo stone with his eyelids during a New Year show in downtown Delhi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hunt continues at US-Canadian border

Police capture 4 prison escapees

BURNABY, Canada, Jan 2, (UPI): Police recaptured four inmates who broke out of a medium security prison near the US-Canadian border but kept searching today for nine other escapees who authorities considered armed and dangerous.

One convict, accused murderer Gary Douglas Dewhirst, was nabbed at his parents' home yesterday. Three of the convicts were captured yesterday evening by police in New Westminster, a Vancouver suburb. Constable Mike Kelly said police acted on a tip that the three were drinking at a local bar.

He said the men attempted to hide in the washroom and offered no resistance.

"They tried to conceal themselves in the washroom, but that didn't work," Kelly said. He said one of the men was still wearing prison trousers when captured.

Charges

The three were identified as Allen Gerald Ibsister, 26, Daniel Gordon Smith, 20, and Daniel Nicholas Fetter, 18, all serving sentences for robbery and weapons charges.

The escapees were involved last week in a riot at the prison and had been placed in segregation cells from where the escape

was launched, Kelly said.

Shortly after the 13 prisoners fled the medium security prison, three of them beat up a Burnaby resident and stole his car when he was leaving a bar with his wife, police said. The car was later found near the US-Canadian border.

Dewhirst, 21, was arrested without incident at his parents' home in Chilliwack, 75 miles (120 km) east of the lower mainland regional correctional centre in Burnaby, a Vancouver suburb, said Cpl. David Muir of Burnaby's Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Trial
Charged with first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder, was awaiting trial, as were most of the other men who escaped, police said. "The one bright light on New Year's day is that we got the worst case first," Burch said. "But none of them are nice guys."

Stewart Burch, night deputy at the corrections centre, said the escape was the biggest in the 80-year history of the rundown provincial prison facility, which holds prisoners for short terms and prisoners awaiting transfer to other lockups.

Soviets continue to oppose Star Wars

MOSCOW, Jan 2, (Reuters): The Soviet Union denied today that it had dropped its opposition to the US "Star Wars" programme during last month's superpower summit and said American officials had tried to distort Moscow's position.

The official Communist Party newspaper Pravda said "confused" US officials had claimed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev made "radical concessions" at the summit and approved the missile defence programme, officially called the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI).

Impose

"Juggling with the facts was obvious, because there is no change in the Soviet attitude to the SDI programme and it was authoritatively stated by the Soviet side — it did not happen," the Pravda commentary said.

It charged Washington with

"attempts to distort in its own way the results of the recent Soviet-American summit."

"By trying to impose on the country its interpretation of the results of the talks, the administration tried to break up expanding opposition to its plans for the militarisation of space," Pravda said.

The newspaper said US National Security Adviser General Colin Powell was one official who had told journalists that the Soviet position had changed.

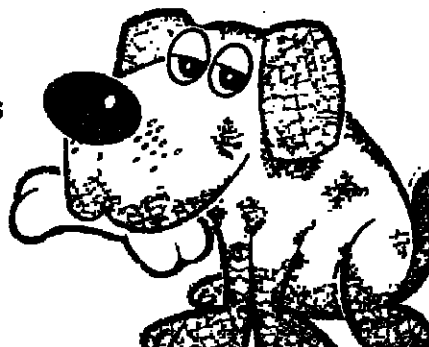
During the Dec 7-10 summit in Washington, Gorbachev and US President Reagan signed a treaty to eliminate medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles.

Just before the summit, Gorbachev admitted in an interview with the US television network NBC that the Soviet Union was engaged in basic research in areas covered by SDI.

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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Power bloc

RABAT, Jan 2, (Reuters): An emerging Arab power bloc on Europe's doorstep could expand this year if Libya signs a treaty intended to unite the Maghreb countries, diplomats and analysts said.

Libyan membership could also hasten the creation of a North African Common Market, rich in crude oil, iron ore, phosphates, fish and citrus fruit.

1,000th birthday

DUBLIN, Jan 2, (UPI): Thousands of Irish men, women and children danced and sang on Dublin's streets yesterday to begin yearlong celebrations for the city's 1,000th birthday.

Church bells pealed across the capital city as Lord Mayor Carmichael Hederman and Prime Minister Charles Haughey declared the millennium celebrations under way at an open-air ceremony outside the mayor's flood-lit mansion house.

Rare bird

CHRISTCHURCH, England, Jan 2, (AP): More than 1,000 birdwatchers waited silently in a driving rain on a narrow country lane in southern England yesterday to catch a glimpse of the first little bunting seen in Britain in 12 years.

The long-necked, long-legged bird finally rewarded their patience, making a brief appearance in the afternoon.

T-shirts banned

LILONGWE, Malawi, Jan 2, (AP): Malawi has outlawed T-shirts produced by an exiled opposition party and bearing the slogan "We are fighting for a real freedom," the Malawi news agency said.

The T-shirts are "subversive," said a government spokesman quoted by the semi-official agency on Thursday.

He warned that anyone found with the shirts "will be dealt with in the appropriate manner." The spokesman, who was not identified, did not say precisely what would happen to offenders.

Plane missing

JAKARTA, Jan 2, (Reuters): Rescuers are hunting in thick jungle for a light plane with 17 people on board that disappeared over Borneo on Wednesday, a spokesman for Indonesia's Merpati Nusantara Airlines said today.

Planes and helicopters from logging companies are being drafted into the search, army officials in the provincial capital of Samarinda said.

Rock star

LONDON, Jan 2, (AP): A gang attacked the lead singer of the Communards pop music group in a tavern and slashed his face with a broken beer glass, according to reports today.

Khaleda, Hasina hold talks

(Continued from Page 1)
power to a neutral caretaker government responsible for overseeing polls.

They charged that Ershad rigged the parliamentary election in May, 1986, and the presidential poll last October to make himself and his Jatiya Party the winners.

Impose

Western diplomats said Ershad would be forced to impose martial law again if he failed to hold election within 90 days of dissolving the Parliament. The deadline expires on March 5.

The Jatiya Party invited applications from the candidates seeking election to the new Parliament. Another group, calling itself a "37-party Islamic Alliance," said it would also take part.

"Elections will be held despite boycott by a handful of parties, including the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party," Ershad told a meeting of about 70 splinter political parties today.

"The government cannot flatter any party to take part. It's not the responsibility of the government to ensure participation," Ershad said.

Ruling Tamil Nadu party ...

(Continued from Page 1)
another meeting.

This meeting was reported to have been attended by about 40 legislators.

Janaki faction enjoys support of the maximum number of legislators. But for staking claim for the post of chief minister she needs support of at least 120 legislators.

The Congress (I) has 61 legislators while opposition Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) has ten members in the assembly. The Congress (I) members are likely to support Nedumchezhian, who needs support of over 20 members to form the government.

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KUWAIT

Tokyo adopts balanced Mideast policy

Kuwait-Japan relations steady

TOKYO, Jan 2, (Kuna): While reviewing 1987, one can easily say that it was fairly a rosy year for Arab-Japanese relations, but unfortunately ended on a gloomy note as Tokyo made it clear it aims at "balancing" its Mideast policy in order to accommodate Japan's ties with Tel Aviv, frozen since 1973.

To begin with, Kuwait-Japan relations continued to be smooth during the year under review, as was seen in exchanges of visits by Japanese government and ruling Liberal Democratic party envoys and Kuwaiti officials as well as cultural and sports teams. This was in addition to doubling of Kuwait crude oil supplies to Japan and Japanese exports to the Arab Gulf country.

Promoted
Cooperation between Japan and the United Arab Emirates was vigorously promoted last year to the extent that the Arab country jumped to number one position as oil exporter to Japan during the latter half of 1987.

Other Arab Gulf countries, such as Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, were among the states with which Japanese diplomatic and cultural cooperation was promoted further in line with Japan's efforts to expand ties with all Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

Japan considers the GCC as a valuable body which contributes generously to peace and stability in the region.

Trade
Saudi Arabia remained the largest trade partner for Japan in the Middle East.

The Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef, who came here as an official guest of the Japanese government, met with then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone and other leaders for talks centering on bilateral relations as well as other Arab issues.

The flow of visitors on official and unofficial trips continued between both nations and their joint ministerial committee met in Tokyo to review progress in the economic and technical fields of cooperation, following its meeting in Riyadh in 1986.

Another prominent visitor to this country last year was Sudan's Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi who held high-level talks

with his Japanese counterpart on international and bilateral issues, culminating in a \$15-million Japanese grant to the Sudan.

Japan, meanwhile, organised "cultural weeks" and festivals in some Arab countries as part of its cultural diplomacy, with noted success, particularly in Syria, the Arab country it had less contacts with since Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa visited Japan three years ago.

Former Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari, known to have become friend of the Arabs, visited Baghdad and Tehran as emissary of Nakasone in an effort to revive Japan's mediatory role in the Gulf war, but notably such efforts met no success as Iran continued its policy of refusing to budge from 'no peace and no ceasefire' stance.

Tourism
Tunisia and Japan have had talks on increasing avenues of collaboration when Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali made an official visit here early last year.

There were visits to Japan by both Egyptian and Moroccan ministers of tourism in order to encourage more Japanese tourists to go to Egypt and open a Moroccan tourist office for the same purpose in Tokyo, respectively.

The Japanese industrial and economic circles were happy to learn that the Yemen Arab Republic has started exporting and producing oil at the end of last year, prompting Japanese newspapers to say openly Japan was encouraged because the Yemeni oil does not pass through Hormuz Strait.

Boost
The picture of the Arab-Japanese ties on the whole looked rosy and promising, as they were given a boost when the cabinet of Nakasone decided to offer a \$300-million loan to Jordan, \$200-million to Oman and \$10-million as Japan's contribution in support of the peace mission undertaken by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to mediate in the Iraq-Iran war.

Nakasone capped his efforts by announcing a plan for the

installation of an electronic advance warning system of information in Arab Gulf countries to monitor mines and guide ships through the Arabian Gulf at a cost of \$10 million.

Balance
But all these fine achievements were followed by a shock when an official asked the Arab side to accept the fact that Japan, which has so far been strengthening its bonds of cooperation with the Arabs, is forging ahead with a plan to balance its Middle East policies, with the aim of reviving ties which have been frozen with Israel.

While Tokyo explained its position, it indicated its warm relations with Tel Aviv will not hurt Arab-Japanese relations, seeking understanding from the Arabs.

Meanwhile, a Japanese senior official, who spoke on the UN

day of international solidarity with the Palestinians last November, reiterated his country's firm stand on the Palestine question, the rights of the Palestinian people and on participation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation in an international peace conference on a Middle East settlement.

The Arabs here, however, were jolted to read that leader of the second largest opposition party, Komeito, has urged the government in parliament to improve Japan's relations with Israel, including visits on ministerial level.

Arab resentment increased when it became clear that the Japanese mass media was until today deliberately continuing its disregard of the struggle by the people of the West Bank and Gaza Strip against Israeli oppressive practices.

People urged to cooperate in proper use of utilities

FARID Al Ajel, the assistant director-general of Kuwait's National Housing Authority for Distribution and Follow-up, called on citizens who received land allotments to cooperate with the authority in the proper use of public utilities and services. He added that some citizens destroy underground cables and sewage networks when they are building their houses, and that the authority would not supply these services until all construction in the area was complete, if the destruction continued.

Al Ajel noted that utilities in certain areas were destroyed, especially east of the Andalus area. He warned that the Municipality would take legal action against violators, adding that this irresponsible behaviour cost the government millions of dinars.

The assistant director-general said that the authority will distribute about 300 lots to citizens in the Rabia area next month and that 265 houses would be distributed in the West Fintas area at the end of this month.

Sabah Hospital has a staff of 1,962

AN official source at Kuwait's Public Health Ministry, speaking about the Sabah Hospital, said that the hospital has a staff of 1,962, with 630 nurses, 343 doctors, 292 technicians, 205 administrators and 370 service workers. The source added that the total number of surgeons is 42, and that a total of 1,853 patients were admitted to the hospital in

December, 40 per cent of whom were children.

The source said that 1,889 operations were performed during the same period, with seven deaths, and that a total of 17,995 patients called at the outpatient clinic, of whom 7,699 were Kuwaitis and 10,296 were non-Kuwaitis.

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Rapist jailed or seven years

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a man to seven years hard labour to be followed by deportation on the charge of rape.

The victim claimed that the man took her to a flat where he promised to find her a job as a maid. She said that he then forced himself on her.

The victim reported what had happened to her husband who informed the police of the incident.

When security officers arrested the suspect, he said that the husband and wife were trying to frame him. The suspect claimed that the woman acquiesced to his advances.

Rape attempt

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a married man to five years hard labour after finding him guilty of attempted rape.

The defendant and his wife, a friend of the victim, invited the victim to stay at their house because the defendant was considering her as a second wife.

When the defendant started making advances, the woman started crying for help. The defendant's wife helped the woman to get out of the flat and she was spotted near her car by a policeman who took her to the hospital.

Although the court sentenced the man to prison, his wife was released since she had helped the woman to get away from the defendant.

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Second-hand furniture shops closed down

KUWAIT Municipality recently implemented its decision to close down the second-hand furniture shops at Shuwaikh industrial area and at Al Rai.

A local newspaper interviewed some furniture dealers and municipality officials for their views on the subject.

A carpet and furniture merchant, Jasem Al Swail, said he had been in the business for ten years at the old location close to the cemetery, and the municipal decision came as a complete surprise. He said the shops were the only source of income for the owners. After the decision they lost most of their customers and were unable to sell their goods, and they still had many debts to banks and employees, he said.

Stability
After leaving this location, they felt some stability at the new location at Shuwaikh industrial area but they were soon asked to move again. He had hoped the municipality would grant another six months to give them more time because the new complex at Farwaniya had not been completed.

Another merchant, Yousif Al Kharif, said the merchants had

suffered a lot as a result of having to move their goods from one location to another. A number of customers were lost and some furniture damaged. He said that most of the goods sold at these shops were made locally and met customer requirements. He said he had sold furniture for more than 12 years, and people came to the shops because prices were cheaper than at any other place. The municipality has suggested paying compensation, but had not done so yet.

Special market
Mohammed Ibrahim hoped the municipality would build a special market for furniture dealers as done in several countries. He said the merchants had spent large sums of money to shift the first time and it was difficult for the merchants to pay again. They now pay high rents for their shops and owe large sums of money.

A citizen, Musaed Al Tawel, said the matter was an important one and merchants were harmed by the municipality's decision. He called upon officials to find another solution for the problem and give merchants a new location because the business was

their only source of income. He pointed out that some people were able to buy at high prices while others were not, and such shops catered to poorer people. He added that similar markets existed in many countries.

Another resident, Faisal Al Safar, opposed the municipality decision to move these shops. He said that other shops in the city and Hawalli sold furniture of the same quality at higher prices.

Khamis Hassan said that the market was necessary for people with low incomes, and was the right place for people to come and sell their old furniture. The decision to shift the location was therefore harmful to customers and merchants alike.

The assistant director general of the health affairs department at the Municipality, Wasel Mansour, said the municipality had no intention of extending the period. Several studies had been presented to the Municipal Council and had been approved. He said that work to organise the Shuwaikh industrial area was under way and a study was being made about bringing the second-hand furniture market back to the Safat area.

Municipality carrying out field study on transportation

KUWAIT Municipality is conducting an important field study to draw up a new model for transport and public transportation service, and youths questioning motorists at traffic lights have been gathering data for the study.

A local newspaper asked officials at the municipality about the objectives and goals of this project.

The deputy chief engineer, Abdul Rahman Al Duaij, said the project will have a total value of KD 534,000 and the contract was signed in July. Implementation was postponed until people came back from their vacation outside Kuwait. He added that the programmes available at the municipality permitted officials to predict communications and transport conditions in constructed residential areas only, but newly established areas, such as Kheiran and Sabiyah required to be surveyed as well.

He pointed out that the study also aimed at reviewing necessary dimensions for the two main roads suggested for the transport system.

Elements
He said the project consisted of two main elements. One was meant to develop the municipality's capabilities in the field of communications and transport and traffic conditions. The other dealt with public transportation in the near future.

He said the project will last for 20 months during which data will be collected on traffic conditions in Kuwait.

The study will draw new models for traffic at the national and capital levels.

He said that several studies were concluded in 1983 regarding a group transport system, but they showed that such a system would not be suitable for Kuwait at the time, specially in the

UAE fishermen return

DUBAI, Jan 2, (Reuters): Five fishermen who were seized in the Gulf and thrown into an Iranian jail have returned home to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Al-Khaleej newspaper said today.

The fishermen, quoted by the Sharjah-based paper, said three armed men from an Iranian launch boarded their boat on December 17, interrogated them and took them to Bandar Abbas in Iran.

They said the Iranians took equipment and around 1,000 dirhams (270 dollars) in cash before throwing them in jail.

The report gave no reason why the fishermen and their boat were seized.



Iman Atef Jameel, representing Kuwait Science Club, was the featured speaker at a symposium held for mothers by the Children's Clubs Department. The symposium was hosted by the head of the clubs Sharifa Al Shatti.



Concerned mothers at the symposium held by the Children's Club and the Environmental Protection Council.

Egypt's new envoy arrives in Qatar

DOHA, Jan 2, (Reuters): Egypt's new ambassador to Qatar has taken up his post, one week before President Hosni Mubarak's scheduled tour of Gulf states, the embassy said today.

Ambassador Isam Hawas arrived on Friday night, six weeks after Qatar joined other Gulf states in restoring ties with Egypt which they broke after its 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Mubarak will visit all six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which includes Qatar, during his tour which starts on January 9.

The Qatari newspaper Al Arab today quoted Egyptian presidential spokesman Mam-

douh Al Beltagi as saying Mubarak's tour was important because recent developments in the Middle East required a coordinated Arab stance.

Beltagi cited the Iran-Iraq war raging into its eighth year and December's riots in Israeli-occupied territories in which at least 23 Palestinians died, as major issues of concern.

"These require the creation of a mechanism for joint Arab action," Beltagi said.

A Kuwaiti newspaper quoted diplomatic sources on Thursday as saying Gulf states had agreed to pay Egypt 4.5 billion dollars over three years to send 10,000 soldiers to work in their armed forces.

British pilot meets new setback on Australia flight

MUSCAT, Jan 2, (Reuters): British adventurer Brian Milton faltered again on New Year's day in his attempt to fly a microlight plane from England to Australia in 30 days.

Milton took off from Oman's Seeb international airport in his tiny patched-up aircraft for the 230-mile flight across the Arabian Sea to Gwadar in Pakistan.

But he turned back to Seeb after only two hours when he ran into rainclouds as low as 2,500 feet — 1,000 feet below his normal altitude.

Plagued
His journey has been plagued by mechanical and fuel problems. He also crashed in Corfu, made an emergency landing on a road in Jordan and dit-

ched into the Gulf on Christmas day.

Milton, a hang-gliding instructor and television journalist, told Reuters on Thursday he now had no chance of getting to Australia in 30 flying days.

But, weather permitting today, he is expected to make another bid to cross the Arabian Sea and continue his flight commemorating a 1919 England-Australia air race.

KD300 fine for selling liquor

A MAN has been fined KD300 by a court for selling liquor. The man claimed he possessed the liquor for his own use, but detectives testified they caught him red-handed selling liquor.

Symposium for mothers

A SYMPOSIUM was held for mothers interested in the Children's Club of the Youth and Children's Department of the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry at the Martyr Ali Ahmad Al Nassar Garden in Shamiya.

The symposium, held in cooperation with the Environmental Protection Council, featured Iman Atef Jameel from Kuwait Science Club as speaker and the head of the Children's Clubs Department Sharifa Al Shatti.

Omani minister for Jordan

MUSCAT, Jan 2, (Kuna): Omani Minister of State for Defence Affairs Al Mu'tasim Al Bu Saedi today left here for Jordan in response to an official invitation from Jordanian armed forces Chief of Staff, Field Marshal Zaid Bin Shaker, Radio Muscat reported.

The Omani official, heading a high-powered military delegation, will hold talks on boosting military cooperation between the two countries, the radio said, noting the visit is scheduled for a few days.

Gulf Educational Bureau meeting

RIYADH, Jan 2, (Kuna): The Gulf Educational Bureau will hold the fourth meeting of educational statistics officials of member states from Jan 4 to 6.

Participants will discuss several topics, including the unified and amended form for school registration and the comments of member states. They will also discuss a report on the implementation of the recommendations adopted at the previous meeting.

GULF PRESS

Iraq-Iran war poses a threat to Gulf security

TWO leading UAE newspapers commented editorially on the threat posed by the Iraq-Iran war to the security and stability of the region and appealed to the international community to intensify efforts in bringing an end to this bloody and destructive war.

Al-Itihad newspaper of Abu Dhabi said "Washington's announcement for the first time on Friday that it was ready to discuss deployment of a UN naval force in Gulf waters was a peculiar American step... as formation of this kind of force was proposed by the Soviet Union."

"Washington's new stance on the deployment of the force in the region and the announcement of a Soviet official at the conclusion of his visit to Syria that there was an increasing understanding means, basically the United States is at least not opposing the formation of the force" the paper pointed out.

The paper said that the superpower understanding in this regard followed the recent meeting between the Soviet and US leaders in Washington in which they discussed regional problems prominent among which was the Iraq-Iran war.

Concluding its editorial Al-Itihad questioned whether the new superpower moves mean that there is an agreement between them towards taking joint action soon, and the extent that this action will contribute towards bringing an end to the war.

Another daily, Al-Bayan, said in this connection that all peace-loving forces should exert pressure to implement the UN Security Council's resolution 598 and bring about an immediate ceasefire. The Dubai-based paper called upon all Muslims to look at the Iraq-Iran war as a catastrophe to the Islamic world.

"The Muslims are now in need of every group of blood, and of every bullet to defend their life and religion," the paper said.

Concluding its editorial it said "we, the people of this region, have the prime interest in stopping this war and bringing back peace and stability to the Gulf waters."

Pensioners allowed to work in private sector

KUWAIT'S Public Institution for Social Security has decided to allow pensioners to work in the private sector, and passed several resolutions in this regard, according to a local newspaper.

It said the resolutions had been taken in accordance with specific criteria with the aim of improving the situation of pensioners.

Appeals
The resolutions were also taken in response to appeals made by citizens to HH the Amir when he toured the governorate during October.

The resolutions said that pensioners should have spent 20 years in government service irrespective of their age except that those over 50 years of age were

required to have worked in the government for 15 years.

Oil sector pensioners will also be allowed to work in the private sector.

Banned
The newspaper commented that the new resolutions would lead to improvement of the situation of a great number of pensioners. The current law banned pensioners aged between 40 and 45 years and with less than 25 years service from having both a pension and a salary.

The new resolutions will encourage many people to retire and open the way for appointment of young persons, the newspaper said.

Belgian minister ends UAE visit

ABU DHABI, Jan 2, (Kuna): Belgian Defence Minister Francois Xavier de Donnea and his accompanying delegation today left here after concluding a few days visit to United Arab Emirates.

During the visit, de Donnea met with UAE Minister of Defence Rashed Al Maktoum and a number of senior officials at the general command armed forces.

The talks covered issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations particularly in defence spheres, according to Gulf News Agency.

Nasser sends message to Qatar's minister

DOHA, Jan 2, (Kuna): Qatari Information Minister Jassim Ghanem Al Kawwar today received a message from his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed, Radio Doha reported.

The message was relayed by director of institutes and arts at the Kuwaiti Information Ministry and director of the first GCC theatrical festival Khalid Abd Latif Ramadan during his meeting with the Qatari minister.

CHAUTHA

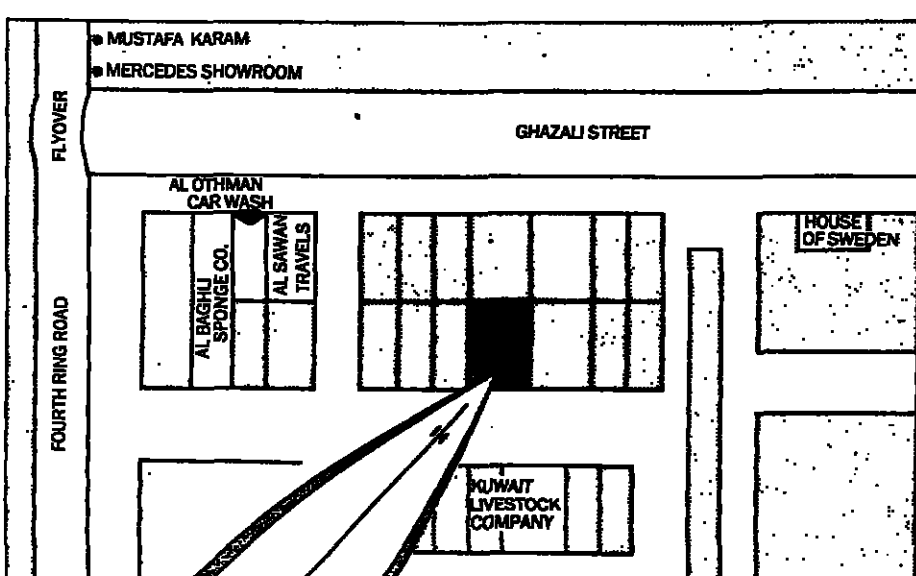


NAGEEN KUMAR

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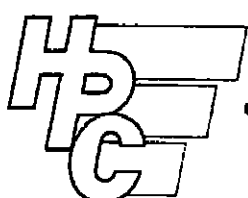
Inboard Engines

- 1) Spark Plug Replacement
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- 6) Tune-up

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WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL

Indiana University

Goodwill Tour
A group of professors and students from the Indiana University, US, who are on a goodwill tour of the Gulf, will give a concert on Monday, Jan 4, at 7.30pm in the auditorium of the Special Institutes, Cairo St., Hawaii. Their programme includes La Boheme and Tosca by Puccini; La Traviata and Rigoletto by Verdi; Daughter of the Regiment and Lucia Di Lammermoor by Donizetti and Pearl Fishers by Bizet. Adults and children over 15 are welcome. Free admission.

Vienna Boys Choir

Vienna Boys Choir will give one performance at 8.00pm on Jan 5 (Tuesday) in the Grand Ballroom at Kuwait Hilton Hotel. They will play a 40-minute piece by Johann Strauss — Tales from the Vienna Woods. They will also present excerpts from compositions by Franz Schubert, Peter Eben, Henry Purcell der Viadana and Benjamin Britten.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

The next meeting for German-speaking women will be held on Sunday, Jan 3, 10am, at the Kuwait Hilton Hotel. All German speakers are welcome.

ASK Alumni Dinner

Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will hold an annual dinner at Regency Palace Hotel on Jan 3. The Arabic buffet will begin at 8pm. For details, phone Mrs Suzy Jones — 531-4368.

HOTELS

At the Holiday Inn

Pastries, stollens and logs for the festive season and New Year items are available at the Lobby Lounge. Lunch featuring seasonal food will be offered at the Coffee Shop, Al Dana and Al Andalus.

For details contact the hotel.

At the Meridien

Lunch and dinner featured in The Versailles, La Brasserie, At Remy and Tony's Jam session enjoy toe-tapping music on Thursday. Family fun on Friday in La Brasserie features a special menu, video cartoons, water games, magician and other attractions for all the family.

At the Ramada Al Salam

Special children's brunch parties will be held every Friday in El Bender. Lots of fun and games will be provided from 12 noon to 3pm.

● All entries for the What's On Column can be telefaxed (2332) to Events Section, or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned entries will not be accepted.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.18 am
Zuhr	11.52
Asr	2.44 pm
Maghreb	5.03
Isha	6.24

Al Andalus

Police Story
Starring: Jackie Chan, Brigitte Lane

Al Samiya

Jara Al Wuhoush (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shariff, Mahmoud Abdul Aziz, Noora

Al Hamra

Howard
Starring: Lea Thompson, Jeffrey Jones

Drive-In

Ya Sadeeqi Kam Tasawi (Arabic)
Starring: Farid Shawki, Safiya Al Omari

Al Firdous

Aadami (Hindi)
Starring: Dilip Kumar, Waheda Rehman

Fahad Open-Air

Jeeva Ki Aarz (Hindi)

Al-Fahad

Neelakurini Poothapool (Malayalam)

Al Jahra

Locket

Granada

Satie Pe Satta (Hindi)

Sulabakhat

Heated Vengeance

Al Jleeb

Amritham (Malayalam)

Ahmadi Drive-In

Protector

Going Places

Ramachandran looks for gold in the film world

ALWAYS a step ahead in the gold business, M.M. Ramachandran has now plunged headlong into the film business, to perhaps strike gold, to fulfil his longing for a "different type of a movie."

"I wanted to make a film that differed from the usual run of pop, violence and sex," says the producer of Vaisali, a Malayalam film that goes on the floor next week in Madras.

Based on mythology, it is set in a drought-stricken land where people are dying of famine. A sage advises the king to find a chaste man, who has never seen a woman, to perform a sacrifice and pray for rain. The search begins. After looking throughout the length and breadth of the kingdom, the king's men find Rishya Sringa, a 17-year-old youth who lives in isolation. Sringa is reluctant to leave his home surrounded by natural beauty. So, courtesan Vaisali is sent to bring him out of isolation.

Ramachandran claims he has brought together "the best people in the business" to make his film. The screenplay and



M.M. Ramachandran (centre) pictured with M.T. Vasudevan Nair and Bharatan at a reception held to launch Vaisali.

dialogue are by M.T. Vasudevan Nair.

It will be directed by Bharatan, who has made such films as Pranamam, Katodu



Music Director Ravi.



Cameraman Madhu Ambat.

Katorum and Minnamununginte Nunguvettam. National Award winner Madhu Ambat is the cameraman and music is by Ravi.

"Ravi is one composer who is not prepared to compromise and incorporate disco and pop sounds in his music," says Ramachandran. Ravi's music with lyrics by O.N.V. Kurup, will be one of the highspots of the movie.

The film stars Jayashree in the lead with support from Geeta, Nedumudi Venu and Devan. They have not yet cast the leading man.

Filming of the big budget movie begins on Jan 15 in Madras. It will be filmed in four Indian states — Kerala, Kar-

nataka, Andhra and Tamil Nadu.

Producing Vaisali is just another business proposition for Ramachandran, who derives pleasure from any profit-making venture. "I take calculated risks, like another businessman," he said. For him, Vaisali is a risk worth taking for the sake of promoting art.

Filmmaking is a new venture for Ramachandran, who was in 1981 a novice in the "gold business." Now, he is nearly an expert in his field.

Though Vaisali is Ramachandran's first production, it may not be the last. "Everything depends on the returns from Vaisali."

FA

An evening with children

A GROUP of children, performed a fairy tale play "The Sleeping Beauty" to ring in the New Year. The play was followed by music, songs and dances. A few jokes were added for fun. A large number of parents enjoyed the evening with children.

The children who took part in the New Year party were Arif, Asif, Bonny, Fahim, Farid, Faris, Farjana, Hanah, Hande, Ishita, Ishrat Jibrin, Johnny, Joy, Joyoti, Jubin, Julie, Lalina, Lindsay, Maliha, Mehrin, Mithun, Moonal, Muna, Musa, Nabil, Nabila, Nadia, Nastia, Nihat, Osman, Rejwana, Rim, Rinti, Rony, Saad, Sabina, Saif, Shams, Sharif, Shimul, Simika, Julie, Tahseen, Timoor, Tinni, Tonni, Vicky and Walid.



(L-R) Faris, Julie, Tahseen, Lindsay, Sabina, Arif, Fahim and Simika in a scene from The Sleeping Beauty.

BBC Highlights

Health Matters

Barbara Myers introduces the first in a new series of twelve programmes. The series takes a look at some of the exciting developments in medical science and combines this with 'body maintenance' advice. In addition, 'Health Matters' emphasises the importance of primary health care worldwide. (Jan 4, 11.15 hrs; 19.91 m)

The Mysterious Art of the Conductor

Until recently Robert Ponsonby was the BBC's controller of music and planner of the annual Proms season until 1986. In this new series of six programmes he examines the art of the conductor through a series of eight interviews with some of today's most famous exponents of the art. (Jan 4,

Legacy of the Sixties

2015 hrs; rep. Jan 5, 11.30 hrs; 24.80 m)

Australia Bound

In May 1864 Richard Watt left his home in the north of England and embarked on the voyage to Australia. During the course of the journey he kept a journal describing life on board ship. Pearce Quigley plays Watt in this series of four programmes, compiled and narrated by Joan Lynch and inspired by Australia's bicentenary celebrations this month. (Jan 3, 12.45 hrs; 16.59 m; Jan 6, 18.15 hrs; 19.91 m.)

The Legacy Of The Sixties

Britain, France, West Germany and the United States all experienced their own varia-

tion on the Sixties theme. Marilyn Broughton travelled to all four countries to collect material for his two-hour programmes, the first of which can be heard this week. (Jan 4, 09.30 hrs; 19.91 m; rep. 13.00 hrs; 18.15 m).

Talking From

A new regular series featuring interviews with and profiles of a wide selection of people — from politicians to poets and from sportsmen to songwriters. The programmes also travel to remote country areas to talk to those people who haven't hit the headlines but who help to make the countries of the United Kingdom the fascinatingly different countries they are. (Jan 8, 15.15 hrs; 19.91 m).



● It was fun time for a large number of people who recently turned up at the premises of Al Sayer soft drinks factory in Sabhan to attend the third draw of the Maaza Mango promotion, currently in the final month.

The bumper draw is on Jan 5.

The main attraction is the Toyota Crown Super Saloon 1988. Other prizes are a return ticket to UK for one, double-door refrigerator, videos, TV sets, bicycles, watches and melamine ware.

Picture shows the crowd at the premises of Al Sayer.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News via Satellite
- 3.30 Hakim Al Azam: cartoons
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
- 4.25 La Ilahe Illalah: daily historical serial.
- 5.30 Al Manahil: series for children, featuring Amal Dabbas, Tayseer Attiya, Rabe'a Shihab
- 6.00 Songs and Music
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 Soora Min Al Tabbya: documentary
- 7.30 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabt: poetry session
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 10.50 Sahrh Ma'a Musiqi: featuring Arab composer Mohammad Sultan
- 11.50 News Summary
- 11.55 World News via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
- 6.10 Lone Ranger: cartoons

Radio Programmes

English

Morning
08.00 Opening
08.05 Songs and Music
08.30 News
08.40 Songs and Music
08.45 Daily Programme
09.00 Bands with a Beat
09.30 Songs and Music
10.00 Our Press Today
10.05 Songs and Music
10.30 Pick of the Pops
11.00 Closedown
13.30 News on the FM service

Evening
21.00 Opening
21.02 The Young Sound
21.30 News
21.45 Point of View
21.55 Songs and Music
22.00 The World of Sports
22.15 In the French mood
22.45 Daily Programme
23.00 Pop Session Special
24.00 Closedown

FM Services

08.00-08.30 Easy Listening
08.30-08.40 News
08.40-10.00 Easy Listening
10.00-11.00 Songs and Music
11.00-12.00 Country Western
12.00-13.00 Songs and Music
13.00-13.30 Easy Listening
13.30-13.40 News
13.40-14.00 Easy Listening
14.00-16.00 Classical Music
16.00-17.00 Easy Listening
17.00-18.00 French hour
18.00-21.30 Pops
21.30-21.45 News
21.45-23.00 Pops
23.00-23.30 Arabic songs and music
23.30-24.00 Easy Listening
24.00-02.00 Instrumental Listening

BBC World Services

0600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsworld
30 Musical Masters of the Baroque
0100 News Summary followed by Play of the Week 3rd Uncle Vanya cont'd; 10th Daisy Pulls It Off; 17th Chicken Soup with Barley — Part 1; 24th Chicken Soup with Barley — Part 2; 31st, The Enemy Within
0200 World News
09 The Sunday Papers
15 I've Been Together Now For 70 Years
30 Album Time
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Back to Square One
0400 Newsdesk
30 A Mozart Miscellany
45 Reflections
50 Financial Review
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Steve Coleman's Record Hop
45 Letter from America
0600 Newsdesk
30 Jazz for the Asking
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 From Our Own Correspondent
50 Waveguide
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 The Pleasure of Yours
0900 World News
09 The Sunday Papers
15 Science in Action
45 Australia Bound (ex 31st Hobbes)
1000 News Summary followed by Short Story
15 Classical Record Review
30 Religious Service
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 From Our Own Correspondent
30 Musical Masters of the Baroque (ex 3rd Play of the Week; Uncle Vanya)
1200 News Summary (ex 3rd) followed by Play of the Week: 3rd Uncle Vanya cont'd; 10th Daisy Pulls It Off; 17th Chicken Soup with Barley — Part 1; 24th Chicken Soup with Barley — Part 2; 31st The Enemy Within.

ALL TIMES GMT



Amy Irving plays Anastasia, tonight's best-seller at 10.30 pm on KTV-2.

6.30 Butterfly Island: "Lost in the Reef."

Tourists go on a sea cruise and are involved in mysterious accidents.

7.00 Understanding Islam: weekly local show on Islam.

7.30 The Wacky World of Sports: a lighthearted look at sporting events.

8.00 News in English

8.40 Hot Shots: Amanda Reed (Dorothy Parke) and Jason West (Booth Savage) are two young, attractive and highly ambitious reporters for Crime World, a magazine that covers unusual

crimes around the world.

9.30 Foley Square: "Make My Day."

10.00 Q.E.D.: "The Invisible Killer." A disease on a cattle farm is examined by a group of vets.

10.30 Best-Seller: "Anastasia." In February 1920, a young woman is rescued from a Berlin canal after an unsuccessful suicide attempt. She is suffering from amnesia, malnutrition... and bears the scars of bullet and bayonet wounds. A routine police investigation triggers her memory — she declares she is the Grand Duchess Anastasia, youngest daughter of the murdered Tsar Nicholas Ramanov. In this two-part series, the story of Ana Anderson — Anastasia — is told.

12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

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3-1-1988



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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

CURSES are like processions, they return to the place from which they came — Giovanni Ruffini, Italian writer (1807-1881).

OPINION

Merge banks

IT has been found that when a number of companies with similar activities and purposes were merged, the companies improved. Many of these companies were reporting losses year after year until the Finance Minister stepped in, and by merging them together, cut down on their administrative expenses. Now some of these companies are actually reporting profits.

This leads us to a more important issue concerning the number of commercial banks in the country which is in excess of the country's needs. In other countries, when the number of financial establishments of similar activity, such as banks, becomes too large, shareholders merge these establishments, thus cutting down on administrative expenses by joining them in one department.

When countries in the region such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Iran needed Kuwaiti banking services because of their country's incomplete infrastructure, the large number of banks in Kuwait was necessary. Even for Kuwait's economic purposes they were needed because of the increase in business activity.

Now the situation has changed, and experts say that Kuwait needs no more than four banks. If the number of banks is reduced to four, banking activities would be more effective, with increased profits, which would solve difficult bank loan problems. Financial experts stress that by merging banks together, huge capitals would be created and returns would be high.

For a start, why couldn't the government begin with banks it owns such as the Burgan Bank and the Bank of Kuwait and the Middle East. These can be merged together into one financial establishment. I believe that shareholders would welcome such a step since profit returns would go up. After this step, we could begin thinking about other banks, which might not require government intervention since they would see the results of the government mergers and would study the possibility of merging themselves.

Ahmed Al Jarallah

Making feelings known in S. Africa

By David Crary

JOHANNESBURG, (AP): An expanding array of laws and emergency regulations restricts dissent in South Africa, but opponents of the government still find ways to make their feelings known.

Theatre companies stage hard-hitting protest plays, political cartoonists ridicule the President, clergymen pray for detainees at Christmas services, black township residents withhold rent.

The government, which has jailed thousands of its opponents and outlawed many forms of protest, says it believes in the concept of free speech but will not tolerate calls for overthrow of the existing political system.

Home Affairs Minister Stoffel Botha, in charge of censorship and press regulations, said recently that total freedom of expression could be dangerous because many blacks were "exceedingly vulnerable to simplistic ideology, agitation and inflammatory speech."

Regulations imposed under the 18-month-old state of emergency prohibit calls for consumer boycotts, civil disobedience and various other forms of protest.

Other laws restrict reporting about the security forces, bar a range of "subversive" statements, require permission to hold outdoor meetings, and allow government censors to ban publications, films, plays and songs.

Forums

But to those with sufficient determination and imagination, outlets for dissent remain.

● The courts: suits filed against the police sometimes produce out-of-court payments from the Law and Order Ministry, which activists depict as tacit admissions of improper police conduct. Even when the suits fail, court proceedings provide a forum for witnesses to publicise accusations against authorities with full immunity.

● The arts: although censors ban many works, there is still room for strong protest. A book called "Two Dogs and Freedom" contains drawings, by black children, of soldiers firing at township residents. A song by white rock star Johnny Clegg salutes activists who died in detention. A play last month at Johannesburg's biggest theatre complex, "You Can't Stop the Revolution," included graphic film footage of victims of alleged police brutality.

● Campus protest: increasingly, the predominantly white, English-speaking universities have become centres of anti-government, anti-apartheid activity,

including occasional clashes between students and police. In October, 20,000 students and faculty at five campuses demonstrated against new regulations which threaten to reduce government subsidies to the schools unless administrators curtail dissent.

Churches

● The press: the major English-language newspapers, although condemned by some militants as pro-capitalist and overly cautious, often run editorials and letters from readers assailing the government and urging bolder racial reforms. Even more aggressive, despite government threats of closure, is the so-called alternative press, which includes the weekly Mail, produced primarily by whites, and several publications edited by and oriented toward blacks.

When Botha urged the press a few months ago to help combat the "revolutionary onslaught," the weekly Mail replied on its front page: "We are happy to oblige — by continuing to expose the injustices of apartheid ... by continuing to push for democracy instead of minority rule."

● Churches: several major denominations, including the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Methodist churches, are at the forefront of the anti-apartheid campaign and often hold services with strong political messages. Church leaders like Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a black, the Rev. Allan Boesak, the mixed-race president of World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Rev. Peter Storey, a white who formerly headed the Methodist church, are well-known abroad and willing to say things that might land less prominent people in jail.

● Strikes and boycotts: militant black unions have made clear that they view strikes as a form of political protest, even though labour laws technically limit strikes to workplace disputes. The ongoing rent boycott, although illegal, has spread to dozens of black townships since its start in September 1984 and has cost local authorities as much as \$300 million. Activists say the boycott will continue until the government frees political prisoners and opens negotiations to give full political rights to the voteless black majority.

● Publicity campaigns: sometimes risking government wrath, opposition groups can make themselves heard through press releases and news conferences. Statements from the United Democratic Front, the largest anti-apartheid coalition, appear regularly but no longer are signed. Its two chief spokesmen have been jailed.

AMONG all the predictions for 1988 perhaps the most encouraging is that there is a broad agreement among American economists that an economic recession is unlikely to occur.

It should be of considerable comfort to the rest of the world, for what happens in the United States has its repercussions all over the globe.

There has been widespread concern and some of it still lingers on — that the shock suffered in Wall Street last October could bring on a recession with the consumer curtailing purchases of consumer goods and new housing, industry cutting production targets and service needs suffering in the process.

But if a recession is generally discounted, this does not mean that there will not be a substantial decline in economic growth. The Reagan administration has scaled down its estimates of economic growth for 1988 from 4.3 per cent to 2.4 per cent. Most private economists considered the original estimate far too optimistic. They say that a two per cent growth is more realistic.

Stability

What does it all mean for the rest of the world? There will be relative stability of the world economy at a lower rate of growth, the US imports of raw materials will decline and the American consumer will spend less on imported goods.

What has been puzzling to the experts is the lack of improvements in the American trade deficit that everybody assumed would follow the decline in the value of the dollar. But foreign manufacturers, especially in Japan and South Korea, preferred to lower their prices rather than lose the American market altogether.

Americans are willing to pay more for foreign goods if their quality is superior to the American equivalent and American manufacturers still have not learned how to sell abroad.

What is worrying the administration is that too weak a dollar could lead to the need to raise interest rates which in turn could lead to inflation and the dreaded recession. In an election year that would not bode well for the Republican Party.

Another encouraging prediction is that both, President Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, are eager to have another summit — this one in the Soviet Union — whether an agreement on a 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear weapons is reached beforehand or not. The reason that the prospects for an agreement have improved is that Gorbachev is probably less concerned now about Reagan's Space Defence Initiative, often referred to as "Star Wars", than he was at Reykjavik and in Washington.

The reason is that the US Congress passed a continuing resolution, negotiated between the Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci and the two senior members of the Senate armed services committee, John Warner and Sam Nunn.

Economic recession in US unlikely

Inside Washington

By Henry Brandon

gress passed a continuing resolution, negotiated between the Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci and the two senior members of the Senate armed services committee, John Warner and Sam Nunn.

It assures the Russians that there will not be any space-based tests in 1988. It also means that by the time Reagan leaves office no breakthrough will have occurred in SDI.

Since Gorbachev is by now well aware that Reagan is zealously committed to the SDI programme he could not talk him out of it. He, therefore, has to find a way of by-passing it. Congress has done it for him. Much will depend whether Gorbachev's political position at home will be sufficiently firm to allow him to go for a "Start" agreement without firm limitations on SDI or a summit without even the prospects for a "Start" agreement.

Volatile

The assumption in the White House is that Gorbachev needs at least a commitment to the ABM treaty (as Congress interprets it too), in order to claim within the Politburo that the "Start" agreement would allow him to shift some military spending to strengthening the domestic economy.

Since he probably recognises that the political realities in Washington are helping him to accomplish his own purposes, he may well also recognise that these realities would allow him to adopt a more lenient attitude without needing to nail down a position on SDI that Reagan could not accept.

If Gorbachev, within the political limitations he has to

observe, can afford to rely on the US Congress to put limitations on space testing, he would be in a good position either to go ahead with a summit meeting or walk away from it. But my guess is that he will decide to go ahead with it.

The situation in the Middle East and the Arabian Gulf is so complex and so volatile that no one here is willing to make any predictions for what might happen in the area in 1988.

The general assumption is that Arab-Israeli tension will continue, even though the kind of demonstration that have led to bloody confrontations in the last few days may well die down. It is hard to keep up that kind of street violence. But the prospects for another American peace initiative are virtually nil.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher flew to Washington last summer primarily to convince Reagan to renew his Middle Eastern peace efforts, but she would have known that she was bound to be rebuffed.

Secretary of State George Shultz has given up on finding some sort of an accommodation between Israel and King Hussein of Jordan. The political situation inside the Israeli government is such a deadlock that only another election with one or the other party winning a clear-cut victory could resolve this conundrum.

Furthermore, it is an old verity that in an American presidential election year — and 1988 is an election year — no party and no candidate will advocate anything that could create friction with Israel.

Regarding the Iran-Iraq war everybody, including the two belligerents, is awaiting the outcome of the much heralded Iranian offensive.



American experts, familiar with the battle fronts, believe that the Iraqis are in a good enough position to hold their ground and prevent Iran from scoring a decisive victory. It is also interesting to watch the manoeuvrings of the Soviets who in the last few months tried to have closer contacts with the Iranian government.

Flexible

E. Primakov, the head of the Soviet World Institute, a member of the central committee and a leading Middle East expert, said in Washington during the Gorbachev-Reagan summit that the Soviet Union was still trying, behind the scenes, to persuade Tehran to accept the UN ceasefire resolution. And that to be able to maintain these contacts, Moscow was reluctant to vote for imposing a weapons embargo on Iran.

An added reason, he said, was that arms embargoes are notoriously ineffective, especially today, when so many arms are available on the open market. But the Soviet position seems to be shifting, or has become more flexible.

One reason is that the efforts of UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar have reached a dead end. He himself advised the UN Security Council that a "fresh and resolute impulse" is necessary.

The Soviets are also concerned that refusing to vote for an imposition of sanctions on Iran will antagonise virtually all the Arab states, including the Soviet Union's ally, Syria. Since they are eager to play a more active role in the Middle East, they do not want to continue with a policy undermining it.

The Americans are well aware that an arms embargo is more

symbolic than real, but they say that its symbolic effect could have some influence on a number of countries selling arms to Iran, especially China, that American intelligence sources claim is done via North Korea or Hong Kong to enable the Chinese government to pretend that it is not supplying arms to Iran.

Advantage

One of the advantages the Soviets enjoyed thanks to their diplomatic initiatives with Tehran has been an obvious decision by the Iranian government to refrain from attacking Soviet ships in the Gulf.

American and Arab sources are complaining that due to the television coverage of Iranian attacks on shipping in the Gulf, an impression has been created that the Gulf has become a highly unsafe waterway, when, in fact, fewer than five per cent of the ships that pass through come under attack.

The Iranians have indeed escalated their attacks to match the number of those carried out by the Iraqi Air Force against Iran-bound ships, and against those carrying Saudi oil in retaliation for the Saudis refusal to give the Iranians a privileged position in the sale of their oil on world markets.

American officials deny that they have come under pressure to extend the rules of the sea under which American-flagged ships are being escorted by the US Navy to ships belonging to other nationalities.

One of the reasons why this is not done and will not be done is that it would require more warships. Another is that the Navy is already using funds in the Gulf mission originally allocated for different purposes.

Washington is pleased.

though that moderate Arab states have quietly expressed their appreciation for the American help extended to them. For political reasons they prefer not to say so publicly.

The big event of 1988, at least for Americans is the presidential elections. Predictions as to which candidates are likely to be nominated by the two parties is extremely hazardous at this stage of the game.

Elections

It is fairly safe to assume, though, that unless an economic recession sets in, the Republicans will once again occupy the White House.

The Republican finalists will be Vice-President George Bush and Senator Robert Dole, the other competitors are far behind the two in the opinion polls.

And between Bush and Dole I would put my money on Bush because he is better known and has more support within the Republican Party.

On the Democratic side there are seven candidates and none has a clear advantage, except perhaps for Jesse Jackson, who owes his position as frontrunner primarily to the fact that he is a black and as such enjoys almost solid support among black voters.

However well he may be running in the primaries, he will not be the nominee for president because it is a foregone conclusion that a black today cannot be elected president.

It is not surprising that under the circumstances Democrats are in despair about having no obvious winner in the running not one of their candidates has the kind of presence, or match the aura of experience of the two Republicans.

'If it fails, it's bye-bye'

Time is running out for reforms in Soviet Union

By Paul Quinn-Judge

MOSCOW: Supporters of radical reform feel that this is the last chance to change the Soviet Union.

"If we don't succeed this time," says Vitaly Korotich, the outspoken editor of the weekly Ogoniok, "it's bye-bye."

Time is running out, reformers say. The country is dropping further and further behind the West in technology. And the damage done to the society by its own leaders since the late 1960s — some reformers say longer — means that only the present reform-minded generation of leaders can turn the situation around.

By the time Mikhail Gorbachev was elected Communist Party leader in March 1985, the country was heading rapidly toward economic and social breakdown, reformers believe.

In the early '80s, economist Vasily Selyunin says, he and some colleagues "concluded that, without sharp changes, the country would be facing a major economic crisis not later than 1995." Until Gorbachev appeared, Selyunin says, he felt the crisis was inevitable.

The social situation was worse, says Tatyana Zaslavskaya, the country's leading sociologist. "The main sign that we couldn't keep going the way we were," she says, "was not economic slowdown, or the slowdown in scientific and technological progress — it was ... widespread alienation," caused by "very widespread social injustice." People were, she says, essentially opting out of the system.

Base

The grimness of the reformers' diagnosis may explain the risks Gorbachev is taking. Given the sweep of his ambitions, his power base is narrow.

He is engaged in a revolution from above, but he does not have the wholehearted support of the party leadership. And much of Gorbachev's revolution is improvised; he and his supporters are fond of quoting Napoleon: "On s'engage et puis on voit."

(Engage the enemy, then see"). This disturbs more-conservative leaders, reformers say. "They don't like surprises," a writer says.

Politburo members like Yegor Ligachev, the second-ranking leader, and Viktor Chebrikov, the chief of the KGB secret police, probably accept the need for change. Ligachev was something of a maverick during the leadership of Leonid Brezhnev; Chebrikov was second in command at the KGB to Yuri Andropov, who during a brief period as Soviet leader (November 1982 to February 1984) also showed a desire for reform. But Ligachev, Chebrikov, and others apparently want reform without risk.

Phase

Gorbachev's first 33 months in power can be divided into three rough phases:

Phase 1: Renewal of leadership. Between March 1985 and January 1987, the leadership appointed 11 full (voting) or candidate (nonvoting) members of the ruling Politburo. There was a complete turnover of the Secretariat, which handles top-level policy between Politburo meetings. Most party Central Committee department heads and about 40 per cent of the Central Committee were renewed.

The changes were dramatic, but relatively easy to effect. The Politburo of March 1985 apparently agreed on the need for reform. Differences over its extent and speed had yet to emerge. The appointments were therefore the work of a consensus within the leadership. It is thus difficult to tell how many of the newly appointed officials are supportive or apprehensive of radical reform.

Phase 2: Setting the agenda. While the leadership changes were taking place, Gorbachev and his supporters were working out their agenda for change. Selyunin, a sympathetic but blunt-spoken observer of Gorbachev's reforms, calls the leadership's attitude to the country's problems between March 1985 and January 1987 "technological romanticism." Until this year, he says, Gorbachev and

his supporters thought they could solve the problems by relatively minor technical adjustments, and without changes in economic management.

Thereal breakthrough came in June 1987. At a plenary meeting of the Central Committee, Gorbachev obtained the party's backing for fundamental economic renewal.

Tension

Phase 3: Implementation of reforms. Between the start of 1988 and the end of 1990, Gorbachev plans to put industry on a completely new footing, reform retail and wholesale prices, and halve the bureaucracy. He and his supporters warn that this will be a "critical" and "decisive period" for reform. Privately one prominent reformer describes the next three years as "an extraordinarily delicate time."

If in the first stages of reform he relied on the intellectuals, in the future Gorbachev will need to win over a group whose support for the changes is less certain: the city and regional leadership of the Communist Party.

Political tension has increased sharply with the approach of the next phase of reforms. The country has entered a period of "strong polarisation," says the reformer, a Gorbachev supporter.

The most graphic signs so far of growing tension was the outburst by Boris Yeltsin during a Central Committee meeting Oct 21. Mr Yeltsin, who had been considered one of Gorbachev's closest supporters in the Politburo, claimed that perestroika (restructuring) was at a dead end, and that Ligachev was responsible for this.

After a brutally critical speech by Gorbachev, Yeltsin was dis-

missed from his post as Moscow city party chief Nov 11.

The tension is likely to increase. The initial effect of the reforms on the average citizen's life style will probably be negative. Planned abolition of food subsidies is unpopular, officials concede. The reforms will probably be introduced piecemeal, which would intensify the confusion surrounding the changes.

All the situation would need during this period for the reform programme to get into very big trouble, the reformer quoted above says, is "one major mistake or one major provocation" — a serious strike, demonstrations against price increases, or nationalist disturbances. "Our leaders are not all as daring as Gorbachev. Their threshold of tolerance for public disorder is low. If things go wrong, the pressure on (Gorbachev) to slow down will be very heavy," the reformer says.

So far, Gorbachev has proved himself a skillful tactician. He has used glasnost (openness) and his own ability as a communicator to establish a rapport with ordinary people that has not been seen here since Nikita Khrushchev. Although Khrushchev alienated the intelligentsia, Gorbachev has turned it into one of his main support bases. His meticulous political destruction of Yeltsin once again shows what Soviet President Andrei Gromyko has called his "iron teeth."

The Yeltsin affair does not seem to have weakened Gorbachev's resolve to push through his reforms. It does, however, seem to mark a shift in his position. He is apparently distancing himself somewhat from the

proponents of radical change, and trying to reinforce the common ground that still exists with more-conservative leaders.

Men like Ligachev and Chebrikov appear to fit the category of what Fyodor Burlatsky, a pro-reform writer, calls "irradical" reformers. They favour tightening of discipline in society and the workplace, and a crackdown on corruption.

Difference

Ligachev apparently agrees with more-radical reformers on issues such as Gorbachev's anti-alcohol campaign, protection of the environment, and the firing of incompetent party officials. He also accepts some degree of de-Stalinisation. He apparently views glasnost as a way of enforcing discipline and exposing incompetence. And he plays an active part in economic planning.

Traditionalists, however, seem to be worried that an excessive reassessment of the past, and excessive openness today, could

turn into an attack on the legitimacy of the Communist Party, and that this in turn could lead to a breakdown of the party's authority.

When the implementation phase of reform starts, Gorbachev will find himself facing another adversary: the country's bureaucracy. The reforms threaten the power, privileges, and even the jobs of millions of middle-level officials.

Until recently, reformers say, the bureaucracy did not take Gorbachev's reform efforts very seriously. As Otto Latsis, deputy editor of the party's theoretical journal Kommunist, remarks, most of the ideas behind the reforms have been under discussion for years. The difference is that Gorbachev wants to put them into practice.

The bureaucracy is already fighting back, says Korotich. And, he added, it has shown itself very skillful in "drowning" previous reforms.

The Christian Science Monitor.

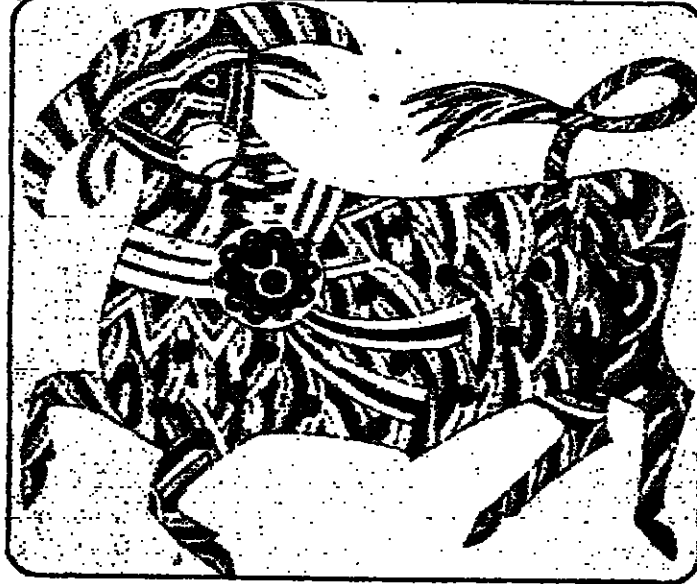
TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1739 — Convention of the Pardo to settle Anglo-Spanish disputes opens.
- 1778 — Palatine recognises Austrian claim to Lower Bavaria.
- 1795 — Secret treaty between Russia and Austria for third partition of Poland.
- 1815 — Austria, Britain and France form defensive alliance against Prussia and Russia.
- 1868 — Shogunate is abolished and Meiji dynasty restored in Japan.
- 1896 — Anglo-German relations reach crisis over German support to Transvaal leaders.
- 1915 — Rebellion breaks out in Albania.
- 1921 — First Indian Parliament meets.
- 1941 — Italian forces surrender at Bardia, Libya, in World War II.
- 1956 — Soviet Union extends technical assistance to China.
- 1961 — United States severs relations with Cuba.
- 1962 — Indonesia's President Sukarno proclaims West New Guinea an independent province.
- 1974 — Kuwait reaches agreement with Gulf Oil and British Petroleum companies for 60 per cent takeover of their operations in the Arabian Gulf state.
- 1977 — Largest loan in 30-year history of International Monetary Fund almost \$4 billion is made to Britain to bolster its currency.
- 1987 — Chad accuses Libya of dropping napalm bombs on oases of Zouar and Fada, and says air raid was aimed at civilians.

What is in store for you in 1988

TAURUS

(April 21 — May 21)



YOUR ruler Venus (such a lovely ruler to have, while the rest of us are stuck with that variegated bunch) is augmented in all her sweetness and goodwill by Jupiter's stay in Taurus between early March and the end of July.

Jupiter too is determined that you should enjoy a good, nay magnificent time. The only shame is that he does not remain with you longer than four months or so. But between them, these two benefices beam you up into an astonishing realm of ease and a certain luxury. Your astrologer has one thing to say to you on that score: make absolutely certain that you GRAB IT!

Astrological opportunities whizz by all too quickly. Sometimes a beautiful aspect never reappears: sometimes it recurs twelve years later (Jupiter takes twelve years to return to a sign) when you have something else on your mind by then anyway.

The great thing about knowing when Jupiter is in your own sun-sign is that you can be alert and aware of every opportunity.

I once let a wonderful lucrative movie sale slip away by allowing someone else (I thought they were an expert) deal really slowly with it, letting weeks and then months elapse so that the movie company went off the boil and bought something else instead. I didn't know much about astrology at the time: later, when I did, I looked back on that crucial time when the contract could have been signed, and saw that Jupiter was on that G-spot for four days only. Jupiter was there: but unfortunately I wasn't.

Lucky strike

The Greeks had a god called Kairos whom you must catch by his flowing hair: however, he was winged and could only be grasped by those with a sure hand. He was the one moment. He symbolised the "Lucky Coincidence."

Your moments to watch for Kairos, and hopefully to seize

him in his flight are March 13th-14th-15th (when Jupiter encourages Saturn's structuring action, and simultaneously Saturn structures Jupiter's expansive action) and May 1st and 2nd, even though this is a Full Moon phase and not at all comfortable to get through.

June sees a pleasant emphasis on your finances, not in any earth-shattering way, but so that it becomes agreeable routine to top up your current account, and your building society book is more than usually enjoyable reading!

There will be temptations in plenty through March and July, by the way, to relax and nothing more, in other words to waste your Jupiter timing. There will be opportunities to over-indulge, to put on weight. To lean back and say "This is how life should always be" and enjoy it, forgetting that there is always a need to consolidate, that the rainy day will come again.

Your 1988 rainy days are mostly in February.

And later in the year, August and November don't look entirely dry either!

Your highly romantic October, however, will put you into good shape to face the vagaries and challenges of November, never your easiest month. This November sees you better off in one way: Saturn the consolidator moves on into Capricorn, a sign eminently suited to the furtherance of your own stability and security. From now, you can view the future with a little more confidence, in spite of the fact that Saturn is not quite as strong and solid as it should be in beneficial Capricorn, owing to the dissolving quality of Neptune, also in Capricorn.

Conflict and rivalry

Pluto continues to oppose you throughout the year, however, and while this is essentially a toughening process, you must watch for others' rivalries to your schemes for their own reasons, which to you very often seem more to be based on personal aggrandisement than on working for any common

good.

Your only play in these confrontations (and there are all too many of those for you now) is to remember that they won't win out where they are not acting for the best of everyone concerned. So don't be too downhearted.

This is not Goody Two Shoes' philosophy: it seems to be the avowed ethos of the unsentimental lord of the underworld himself and as Pluto is so much the centre of your scene these days, it pays not to fall out with him.

So if you can be sure of your own motives, say where you know that in your plans involving others you have no interest in anything but what you reckon is due to you, you can rest assured also that you will be able to look back on 1988 as one of your best years ever.

For 1988 combines to emphasise your safety and security with a delightful sense of relaxation and numbers of thrilling opportunities. Your sense of self is enhanced. If you had begun to feel somewhat shaky and much challenged in your own identity, remember that 1988 now wheels into view a self-image you really purr at.

Your partnerships

Owing to Saturn's helpful effects on the partnerships in your life, these also will begin by the end of 1988 to speed up, to take off into blue skies, to propel you towards happier horizons. By December, you may well be contemplating an offer or suggestion of a job abroad (or nearer to the far reaches of thought and academia.)

This would mean harder work, but improved status. You would enjoy your home life wherever this might be, and also feel that you were being re-educated in all sorts of aspects of the world which you hadn't really thought about in the past. The choice is up to you.

YOUR year begins with a rather comfortable feeling for you — for Jupiter is still exerting a major influence over your area of friendships and group activities.

Love is pleasant from the very beginning of the year — for Venus until January 16th is in friendly aspect. But it couldn't be called a spectacular start to 1988, and you are keyed up to withstand the stress which has bombarded your nervous system throughout 1987. This has been due to the action of two major planetary principles — the structuring, constricting effects of Saturn and the outrageous slings and arrows of Uranus, the surprise-bringer. How Gemini has coped with the last two years of this nightmare is an abiding wonder, and there have indeed been more than a few Gemini breakdowns. Gemini is a naturally happy sign, fuller than most of curiosity and enthusiasm. But it is a tight-rope balance act, and very finely tuned. Even phlegmatic signs, earth signs, suffer under the onslaught of Saturn (which does the rounds of us all, hitting hardest every fourteen years or so). And Gemini begins 1988 still opposed by Saturn and the rebellious Uranus. Two antipathetic giants — it's like being smothered by chalk and cheese simultaneously.

Well, this is the last year for Gemini in the crucible — by December, both Saturn and Uranus have shifted into a different sign.

Not only that, not only does the stress at last really ease off, but there is a positive effect from Jupiter the luck-bringer, which enters Gemini in July only half-way through 1988, transforming it into a red-letter year indeed.

Thrills and spills

Jupiter in Gemini, your astrologer admits, is not the most materially rewarding placement for the luck-bringer. In fact, let's face it, it's the least. Jupiter is the least likely to yield diamonds, minks (do people still want these things?) and Alfa

Romeos when in Gemini. But Jupiter in Gemini is one of my favourite effects. It is an ebullient, thrilling, off-the-wall placement — bringing into Gemini's lives a plethora of the things you really prefer: exciting new people, wit and wisdom, nights under the stars, infinitely absorbing tasks and work-mates, creativity and success in original ventures.

Before this happy relief is achieved, there is a difficult June to get through, especially for those Gemini's with birthdays on either June 20th or 21st. This is simply because the Twisted Twins Saturn and Uranus (Saturn is actually the great teacher of the zodiac, but what a martinet — corporal punishment is nothing on this one) are conjunct (running neck-and-neck) in June. They run conjunct again in July (hitting hardest on those of you with birthdays June 19th-20th) and in October, but by then Jupiter is in your sign and exerting its protective influence as a buffer.

There is something else special making 1988 even more agreeable. (Geminians will feel so much more natural vivid again at last).

Romance

Venus, the other benefic, is in Gemini for an extraordinarily lengthy stay — from April 4th to May 17th — then again from May 27th, all through June, all of July, right through to August 7th. This is a delicious experience, when you consider that Venus generally stays only from a couple of weeks to three or four weeks at a time in any one sign, and even then the population of the zodiac sign concerned emerges feeling truly refreshed and revitalised, as if they have experienced a spring shower (or a perfumed garden).

This will smooth off many of the rough corners in Gemini's current existence. Not only will romantic life be a delight, but shopping will yield bargains, bureaucracy will pinch less, you'll

find an empty parking meter, and daily chores in general will be altogether easier.

Sense of achievement

Then comes your golden October, when love blossoms best for you. And this year, backed up by Jupiter in such joyous placement for Gemini, love will be indecent indeed.

The last and not least good news of 1988 concerns your ruler, Mercury, which is at its best for you in Gemini. This is indeed where Mercury, fast-thinking and quick on its feet, will spend all May and June and the first week of July — speeding up your concerns, expediting documents and eliminating old, long-standing delays.

I think if I could choose to be any zodiac sign this year it would be Gemini. You are quite astonishingly endowed with happy experiences now. So enjoy yourself.

How pleasant to move on as you do this year from strength to strength, when the winter is as bright as the summer, and November and December see you with a tremendous sense of achievement and action: November and December also produce for you such a fine, fiery, passionate creativity, or a romantic friendship par excellence: either a continuation of your loving October, or a new development in your sparkling private life. After all, you are one of the most brilliantly social signs, with a great talent for friendship, when you are on form. You have been only too well aware recently that you weren't on top form. Now it is truly your turn to lead sparkle and ships.

A great deal of this improvement in late 1988 is due to Mars active and enhanced in Aries — a sign that is always good for your projects and concerns, opening up your hive and helping all your wit and ideas to stop just buzzing around and actually produce that honey.

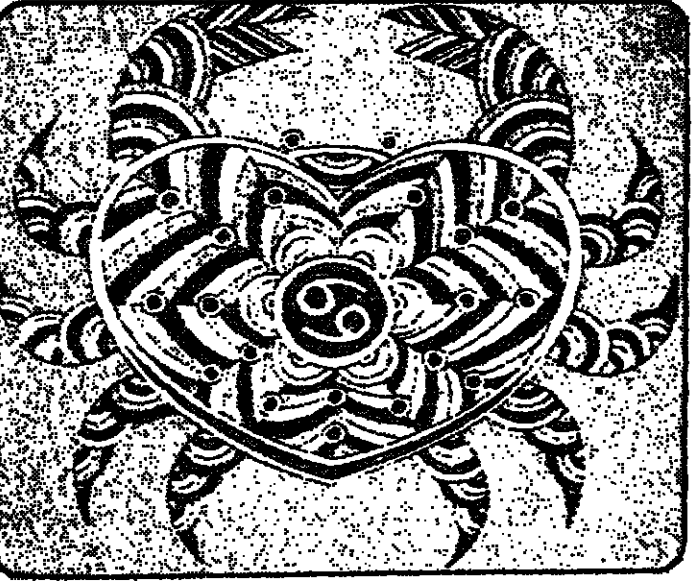
GEMINI

(May 22 — Jun 21)



CANCER

(Jun 22 — Jul 23)



THE best news of a somewhat so-so 1987 for you was the powerhouse Pluto in Scorpio — which has eased your transactions with difficult types (i.e. bullies) and has allowed you an unaccustomed sense of being able to unbutton your little white collar and cuffs, and instead on your Doc Martens. After the strange feeling throughout 1987 that you have got away with it, and roped in the cowboys, given the bossy GP a taste of his own medicine, or whatever other coup you never imagined yourself pulling off, you really are not about to crawl back into your shell.

Never fear, it's not buffooning-up time. Pluto is still around. And now this year Jupiter will be in Taurus through from early March to late July. This is a nurturing, creative placement from your point of view, doing wonders for your morale, bringing you worthwhile friends and consolidating your profoundest hopes and wishes.

Plans you have long cherished in the back of your mind will be brought forward — not so much by your own action, but by others', which is a restful way to get plans expedited. Taurus power, well grounded in practical realism, will see to it that your ideas become earthed — send down roots, build on sure foundations, whichever is applicable.

Partnerships

You are still opposed throughout the year by Neptune, which makes partnership matters very difficult to define or rely upon. You must already have noticed this with many a chill. Others' promises have been easily made in the last couple of years, sounding quite altruistic and leading you again and again to sigh, "What a darling!" or "How selfless he/she is...". Or, if it is a business or company partnership matter, "What a super lot they are!"

What actually happens, however, is delay, muddle and

misery. You have written endless letters, run up horrible phone bills, sought legal advice which turns out little more effective than a "tut-tut...". Thank the heavens for Taurus solidity now to be activated for you by the warming, expansive Jupiter. If only it lasted for more than 4 1/2 months. (The Truly Wunderful Jupiter will return to Taurus, however, next year.) You will also continue to find that partners and/or spouses (and flat-mates, if they share your lease) are desperately dilatory and, from your point of view, irresponsible. They just don't seem conscious of their commitment to you. Don't think it means they don't like you: Neptunian sloppiness being what it is, they are probably pretty sentimental about you.

By the way, astrology doesn't mean that people in your life just let Neptune, ay, seep into their hearts making them fond but reckless towards you. We remain ourselves throughout every astrological vicissitude. But as my teacher put it, "Astrological energy takes the easiest channel presented to it." Well, he actually said, "It always takes the easiest way out." That's exactly why it's helpful to know in advance the tendency to close stable doors before that particular pony has bolted.

Your emotions

Cancerians have another speciality-fixture this one remains with them all their lives, and as yet it will strongly affect them in 1988. They are often more affected by minor phases than by the big ones. Cancer is ruled by the Moon, and this very powerful body is the fastest-moving of all from the earth's point of view, which is how it affects us. The Moon spends only a couple of days or so in each zodiac sign, and because she changes signs so rapidly, she gives an impression of moody, yes, changeability. She tugs Cancerians along with her, lurching from one mood and mode to another.

The good news is that as soon as they've settled into a gothic mood, feeling as though their very rib-cage is being crushed by operatic Sturm und Drang, they're catapulted into a lighter-hearted mode. But of course the next dark dip is awaiting them not too far off. Cancerians worry a great deal, and that's not surprising, because they are anxious about how much anxiety they're sure to feel if the slightest, tiniest thing goes wrong. (They are perfectly OK coping with huge things going wrong.) Some Cancerians do adopt a "Don't let's worry, everything will be all right" attitude as a mask (or shell) — but they're the cowards who can't face the endless re-arrangement of their particular bit of seashore.

Domestic harmony

It is domestic trivia which torments Cancer most — for the Moon deals with that part of daily life. But equally it is domestic trivia which again, when it is going right, brings comfort and harmony most to Cancer and it is during this March-to-late-July, and again in soothing September and November, that you will derive joy from your surroundings and what you have succeeded in accomplishing there, against all the odds of time and tide.

The Full Moons, New Moons and eclipses of the year obviously mean a great deal for Cancer, and it will be genuinely helpful for you to find them in SHE astrology pages and keep them to refer to as 1988 alternately lurches or glides forwards into your personal future.

The important Moon days aren't comfortable days — your adrenalin will be up — but they are days when, like the hour of 13 o'clock in the David Bowie/Jim Henson film Labyrinth, you can alter events your way, if you make the effort: because all is plastic (in the sense of mouldable).

THIS is above all a year of intriguing openings and opportunity — by virtue of the fact that Jupiter the luck-bringer is moving quite rapidly from zodiac sign to sign, at the very top of your solar chart — the part of your life in which you are out in the world, making your mark.

The year begins with Jupiter still creating a pleasant ambience of live-and-let-live in your basic concerns: perhaps you have simply let this be, without taking much advantage of it to really improve your condition over the past months. After all, you would then have also had to contend with a blocking effect from Pluto, as others' ambitions are running counter to your own, and it has been easiest and seems most graceful simply to let them have if their own way so long as you are comfortable, which Jupiter at least has ensured you are.

Leo doesn't intend to exert herself if it cannot all be accomplished gracefully — if she may have to embark on a course without knowing that she will succeed for sure, if she has to be clumsy or chop and change.

Your career

This inertia principle will deepen and set firmer from early March through to late July, when the luck-bringing Jupiter moves across Taurus, a pretty much immovable sign unless goaded. It is, however, your arena of vocation and career, and if you can shift yourself into the most advantageous situation possible here as March begins, you and Jupiter and Taurus between you should present such a solid shield-wall that it would take a determined challenger (or boss) indeed to shake you out of your status quo.

So it appears that April would best be utilised to ask for a raise, or demand a raise, or show the authority figures in your life that they would be bereft and devastated without you.

You are happier not entering any battle of wits, but if you do

so this Spring or early Summer it might well become on "endless" tussle, with each side vying to be most passive-aggressive. Even if you stay out of such duels personally, the company you work with or an institution to which you belong may draw you into one. Make sure you stock up for the siege.

If seems that if you are in a company which is faced by some kind of takeover or financial problem now, you find yourself personally interested and involved. Perhaps you are providing a key to communications between your company and a rival or ally.

Ambitions

In the last weeks of July, Jupiter changes zodiac signs again — lightening your responsibilities while at last speeding matters along in your career. Your ambitions beckon you once again. They look like great fun, and are genuinely inviting, just as they were when you were first setting out towards them.

This pervading sense of excellent and immediacy in your career at last gets you up and out in the best possible way, eager to climb the rockface and by August you are convinced that you can conquer it — and you are receiving plenty of encouragement as each foot-hold you establish becomes more solid and satisfying.

As the year progresses, through a slow difficult February, a splendid ebullient April, inert May, creative October, bogged-down November and at last the romantic December, you will find that Saturn the taskmaster intensifies his strongly constricting, pressuring effect in your love-life.

You are far more dissatisfied with a sweetheart or sweethearts than they with you, however much they try to maintain their hold on you by finding fault and subtly putting you down. You are being shown the way to say goodbye: and if by December you have not said goodbye, it is my bet that the

relationship is truly gold at heart, and all this was simply a rough patch: any liaison that can survive this year's Saturn effect deserves last.

At last, in December, Saturn changes sign and however it leaves you feeling in your love-area, that's how you'll feel next year also.

So, if you are left shellshocked, and not much interested in relationships, that's how you'll continue to feel for quite a while. Don't be anxious if this is the case! You needed a sort of clearing-out of the whole area, so that it can lie fallow for a season, and region its strength!

It may be that you are ready to put your heart to good use again, and in that case it will be a nurturingly romantic autumn and winter for you.

When Saturn leaves its occupation of your emotional sector, where it has caused such bleakness, the Sun immediately moves into your life, taking Saturn's place for warming up the relationships (or feelings about the lack of them) which Saturn left so numbed and chilled.

A turning point?

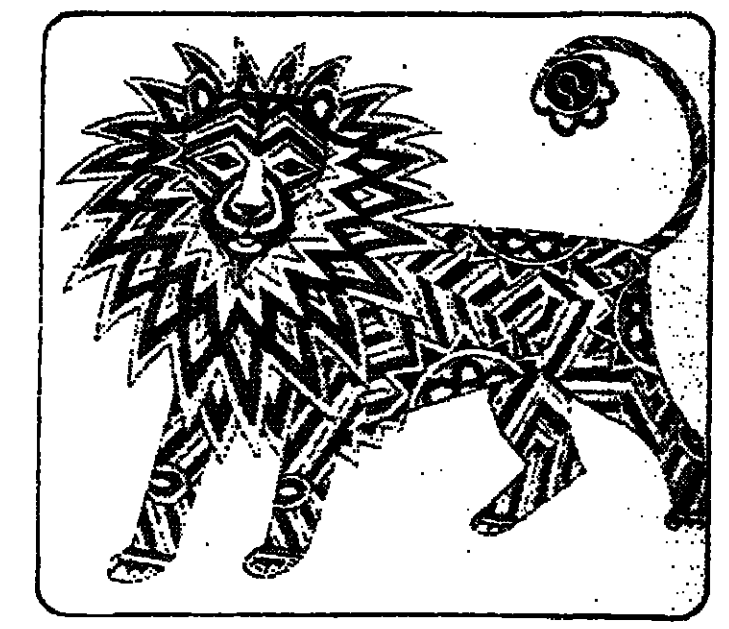
Plus, with the Sun, Venus, Mercury, Mars and Jupiter all in December in glowing aspect to you, even fanning your flames, your poor tired embers will spark up magnificently to see you through what should now be an excellent and decisive turning point in your life.

Your work, also your place of work, whether it be an office or the cab of a bus, will also become of increasing importance to you as 1988 progresses, and anything you can do now to make it a smooth-running, well-oiled environment stands you in good stead indeed.

So, to encapsulate, you are in an ante-room in 1988, limbering up of life's barre as it were, readying yourself for the big shape-up.

LEO

(Jul 24 — Aug 23)



To be continued

PEOPLE

Shadow over high-profile life

Raisa: jewel in the Russian crown

By Carlton Stuart

SHE is a year younger than Joan Collins and she is deeply in love with Western fashions. She is married to one of the two most powerful men in the world and her name is Raisa Gorbachev.

Designer-labelled, Gucci-comrade, and not so much a socialist as socialite... Raisa has been dubbed by them all. And she seemingly revels in them.

But there is a shadow over the high profile life of Raisa Maximovna Gorbachev.

Kremlin power politics would like to destroy her. To younger Russians she has become a challenge to the stereotype image of Soviet women.

In Western eyes too she can do no wrong, a fact that America's First Lady Nancy Reagan realised when she crouched grimace in front of a king-sized television set at the White House on the eve of the latest super summit.

An impassive aide fed in an endless succession of videos displaying Raisa in the very latest sophisticated fashion chic, Soviet-style.

And while the rest of the world pondered such weighty matters as arms agreements and human rights, Nancy Reagan worried at being upstaged by Russia's devastating svelte First Lady.

Nancy reportedly wailed: "She makes me look like a little old granny." Nancy dashed off a series of memos which amounted to the same instruction: "Discover the secrets of Mrs Gorbachev's wardrobe."

Worried

That led to one cheeky White House correspondent, armed with rumours of CIA operatives winning and dining an employee of a French fashion house in Paris, where Raisa was said to be a customer, quering: "What is Mrs Reagan afraid of?" To which an aide snarled: "Nothing. Mrs Reagan has been wearing designer clothes for 40 years."

Indeed, Nancy Reagan waved the flag for the US in mink and a thick gold necklace. In the red corner was Raisa in Persian lamb styled with Dynasty-inspired padded shoulders, the work of

In the West, Raisa Gorbachev — the First Lady of Russia — has been a fabulous success. In her native Russia however, her designer-labelled chic hasn't gone down so well.



Raisa Gorbachev, the elegant wife of Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev.

her dress designer, Slava Zaitsev.

The fact that Nancy was worried at all is confirmation that Raisa does indeed have star power. When it comes to political influence, Kremlinologists can only find a parallel in Nadezhda Krupskaya, wife and fellow revolutionary of Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, the founder of modern communism who led the Bolsheviks to power in 1917.

The Gorbachev dynasty started just three months after her husband, Mikhail, took office in 1985. The communist paper Pravda published a four column picture of Raisa, stylishly elegant in beige coat and scarf.

Until then, the place of a Polit-

buro wife was firmly out of sight. Not any longer. That is not Raisa's style at all, and Nancy Reagan is not the only wife of a world leader who has had to learn to live with it.

Raisa's effect on the political scene has been devastating. But not much is known about her, and Raisa herself doesn't like supplying details.

For example she once claimed she couldn't speak any foreign language and when she visited France in October 1985 looking marvellous with her perfectly coiffed bouffant hairdo she trotted out the same conventional Russian phrase: "Vayno prekrasno" ("Everything's lovely").

But fashion designer Pierre Cardin, who met her privately says: "She can do far better than that. She speaks admirable English, good German and a little French." And she displayed a shrewd grasp of business when chatting about marketing a line of clothing, perfume, make-up and beauty product back in the Soviet Union. Meanwhile all other questions about her family and life-style, were brushed aside.

No one even knew the year she was born... eventually revealed in a throwaway line as 1934 by a Soviet official during the Reykjavik Superpower summit.

But Western observers believe that the decision to reveal where she was born could be the greatest blunder the Kremlin has made yet. Such coyness, the experts say, unleashed a torrent of rumours and speculation which has done Raisa no good at all.

Life-style

But what really started the gossip talking was her glitzy life-style. In London Raisa went shopping in fashionable Bond Street and stunned onlookers by allegedly whipping out the ultimate capitalist symbol — an American Express Gold Card — to pay for a pair of diamond earrings.

Her critics screamed "Capitalist frivolity". But even that paled to the time Raisa was presented with a bottle of Saint Laurent's latest perfume Paris, and was heard to quip: "Oh, I've heard you also make a perfume called Opium." On the same trip she also wheedled designer Hubert de Givenchy to design some clothes for her.

Clothes horse she may be, but Raisa Maximovna has many other sides to her too?

Czechoslovakian communist Zdenek Mlynar, who shared a room with the young Mikhail Gorbachev when they were studying law at Moscow University, reveals that Raisa was a long time girlfriend of the future Soviet leader before his first marriage finally broke up.

And known to be fiercely ambitious for her husband, Raisa asked about her role, has been known to say with innocence: "But I'm only the



Raisa (second left) boldly dressed in checks and stripes during a visit to India with her husband Gorbachev (extreme left) is shown with Sonia and Rajiv Gandhi.

wife of the general secretary. I'm not a political creature."

Soviet experts on the other hand insist that this is nonsense and that Raisa has been steeped in politics since she was in the cradle. Soviet emigre Zhores Medvedev, who has written a biography of Mikhail, claims Raisa's maiden name was Titorenko and that her second name "Maximova" is derived from her father's first name.

Another Kremlin watcher explains: "Titorenko was a reformist under Lenin and fell foul of Stalin who locked him away in a labour camp. Some traditional communists with long memories even regard Titorenko as an enemy of the revolution."

"That could go a long way to explain why Raisa is hated so much in some circles, particularly in the echelons of the KGB," says another top Russian.

Traditionalists

Those traditionalists would dearly like Raisa to be a black-clad dumpling in the conventional Russian mould. Instead they have a first lady who is known to have graduated in philosophy from Moscow University, earning her doctorate after writing a thesis on the daily lives of collective farmers. It was reported to be a brilliant piece of research, back by statistics and in-depth personal interviews.

Away from the camera and the designer dresses, Raisa can be rather a daunting companion though. One Western observer has written ruefully: "She suffers from a defect common in educated Soviet party women. She is a glutton for facts and over-keen, wherever she is visiting, to show off how well she has

done her homework."

Others who have studied Mikhail Gorbachev's career point out that in 1978 he had the comparatively lowly job of party secretary of agriculture. Nobody in those days thought he would amount to very much. But Raisa, the upwardly mobile wife beaver behind the scenes, made sure her husband met the right people and scaled the greasy ladder of Soviet power.

It has certainly paid off. As the Soviet Union's "top two", Mikhail and Raisa revel in the perks of office — a large apartment near the Kremlin, chauffeur-driven cars and mink-lined comfort at their lakeside hideaway home, just outside the city.

It has not been an easy path to power though and Raisa has had to guard her husband like a tiger. When radical boss Boris Yeltsin proved a threat to Mikhail with his own reform programme, it was Raisa who allegedly spurred Gorbachev to get him removed.

Then there was the sensational leak to the New York Times that a video mocking Raisa's capitalist ways was making the Moscow rounds.

According to Muscovites, who claimed to have seen the tape, it was a compilation of TV films showing Raisa living the high-life in London and Paris. Soon it was being said that the KGB had put the tape together, to warn Mikhail to toe the line and curb his calls for reform.

But for all her enemies, Raisa does have her fierce champions. They claim her alleged love of the high-life is an invention of the media.

One Western observer, who admires Raisa, wrote: "When she came to London and drove



Fashionable Raisa Gorbachev plants a tree in memory of Mahatma Gandhi with her husband, Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev.

down fashionable streets, her eyes were on stalks. And that American Express story is nonsense. Can you honestly believe a shrewd politician like Raisa would make a gaffe like that? She did visit Cartier and a small lingerie shop, but the bill was politely sent to the Russian Embassy.

What, in fact we have, says the observer, is a lively, modern-minded grandmother, with a beautiful doctor daughter, Irina, and a pretty grand-daughter, Oksana, known as Sasha.

Clues

Yet there have been other clues to Raisa's lack of favour back in Mother Russia. When her husband was interviewed on American television and asked: "Do you go home in the evening and discuss with her national policies and political difficulties?" Gorbachev replied: "We discuss everything."

That question and answer and all others relating to Raisa were cut out of the version shown to Soviet viewers.

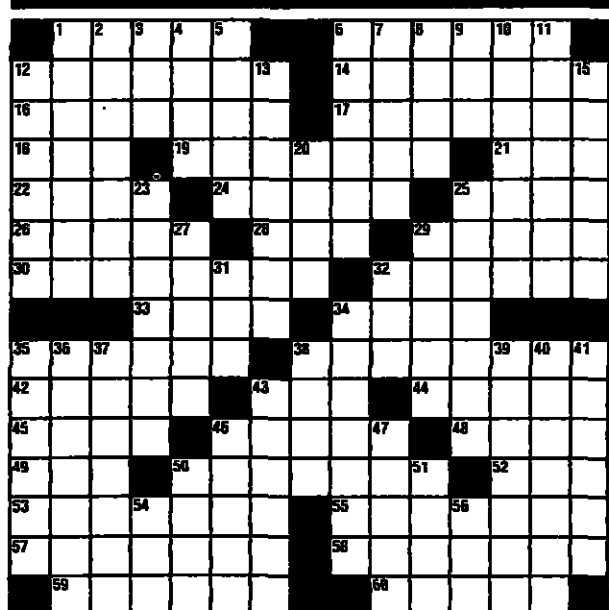
Indeed, one American who saw the Soviet version quipped: "The Kremlin still thinks their women should look like dam builders from Siberia."

One thing is certain though, the Russian First Lady is very much her own woman. She has won over the West. Now she has to convince her own people she's an ally.



Stylish Raisa Gorbachev, of whom Nancy Reagan once said: "She makes me look like an old granny".

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Nailheads
 - 6 Peculiar points of opinion
 - 12 Notched
 - 14 Small stand
 - 16 Showed
 - 17 Synthetic fabric
 - 18 Nov. follower
 - 19 Discharged
 - 21 "...the law — ass": Dickens
 - 22 Places of security
 - 24 Spirited horse
 - 25 Poems with an epic theme
 - 26 Stories
 - 28 Actor
 - 29 Richardson
 - 30 Old invention
 - 32 Attacks
 - 33 Even
 - 34 Uncouth
 - 35 Marked
 - 38 Funnel-shaped flowers
 - 42 A film June
 - 43 Like a wet hen
 - 44 Barber's concern
 - 45 US native
 - 46 Coarse coconut fibers
 - 48 Kett of the comics
 - 49 Through
 - 50 Actress O'Hara
 - 52 Poetic contraction
 - 53 Desk items
 - 55 British emblem of authority
 - 57 Glut
 - 58 Hides away
 - 59 One of 26
 - 60 Watched secretly
- DOWN**
- 1 Distinct
 - 2 Fall drop by drop
 - 3 Coffee vessel
 - 4 Freshwater fish
 - 5 Checks
 - 6 — Island
 - 7 Like some egg nog
 - 8 Resting
 - 9 — a little (to a large extent)
 - 10 Travel about
 - 11 Starts on a journey
 - 12 Unruffled
 - 13 Copy
 - 15 Goats
 - 20 Saline drop
 - 23 More grievous
 - 25 Scent
 - 27 Frugal one
 - 29 River of South Asia
 - 31 Kennedy nickname
 - 32 Away
 - 34 Set right
 - 35 Forms
 - 36 Of a judicial chamber
 - 37 Was
 - 38 gluttonous
 - 39 Duo
 - 39 — whole thing
 - 40 Changed
 - 41 Bowling marks
 - 43 Flat catcher
 - 46 A la —
 - 47 Religious groups
 - 50 Supermarket section
 - 51 Low tide
 - 54 Rest
 - 56 Greek letter

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SQUINTING BAG LOBE
QUISSET ORA OKAY
SIESTA GEM VIER
OPRAH SEABREEZE
LEFTY I AM
DELIRIO ATTESTS
MALL TWAS SOLAR
ERIN SANTA ROUT
RIOTYS GAOL LANA
ENTHUSE RESENT
EVE PIETA
GARGANTUA AVERT
ASEA EEL TREMOR
SHAM CAP ERMINE
PYLLE AMY TSETSE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
NO VAIN SACRIFICE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 3
♥ K4
♦ A Q 9 7 4 2
♣ A K 6 3

WEST

♠ A 9 7 5
♥ Q J 10 7 6
♦ K 3
♣ J 10

EAST

♠ Void
♥ A 8 5 2
♦ 10 8 6 5
♣ Q 9 8 5 4

SOUTH

♠ K Q J 10 8 6 4 2
♥ 9 3
♦ J
♣ 7 2

The bidding:

South West North East
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Queen of ♣

You can't trust anyone any more! While deceit in everyday life is a matter for opprobrium, at the bridge table it is something to be admired. Look at today's hand and see if you can spot how declarer could possibly go down at his contract of four spades.

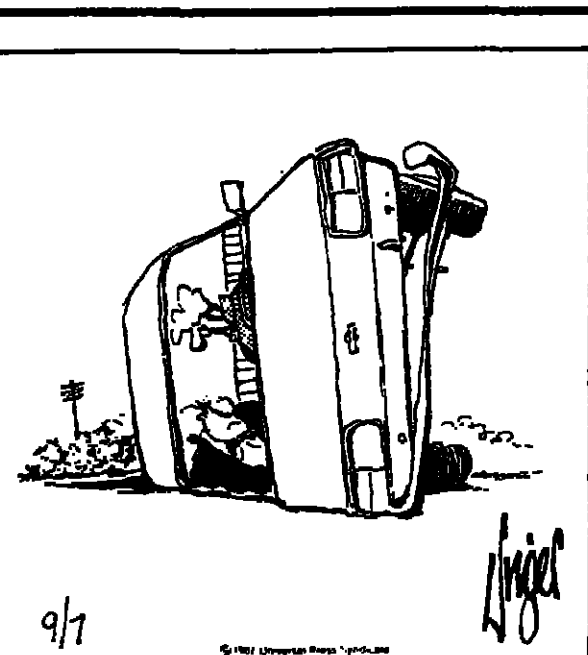
South's opening bid is a classic preempt according to the Rule of Two and Three. Not vulnerable, a bid of four of a major promises a seven-trick hand, and that's exactly

what South thought he had. Events proved him wrong, however.

The opening lead of the queen of hearts was covered by the king and won by the ace, and the heart return went to West's ten. He shifted to the jack of clubs, won in dummy, and a trump to the king fetched the ace. West persevered with the ten of clubs, again won on the board.

Declarer now had a minor problem. Since he would need his three high trumps to draw West's remaining spades, he had to find a way to return to his hand by ruffing successfully with a low card. He could try to do that with either a club or a diamond. Which should he choose? Declarer had all but made up his mind to try to ruff a diamond. So he cashed the ace and West smoothly dropped the king! Declarer gazed at the card suspiciously. West looked like an honest enough fellow, so declarer decided to accept the king at face value as being singleton. He tried to get back to his hand with a club ruff—down one.

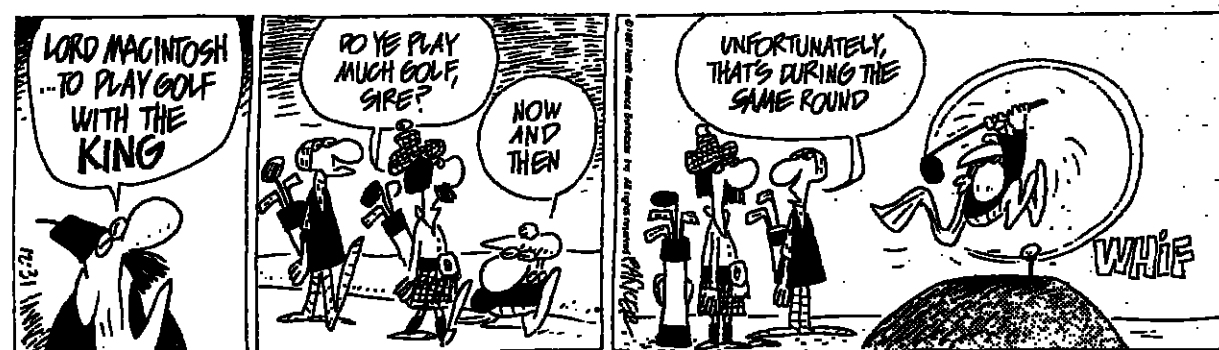
While we applaud West's fine defense, declarer had only himself to blame for being duped. All he had to do to guarantee the contract was to cash all of dummy's winners before leading a trump.



"You're not even half as good as my last driving instructor!"

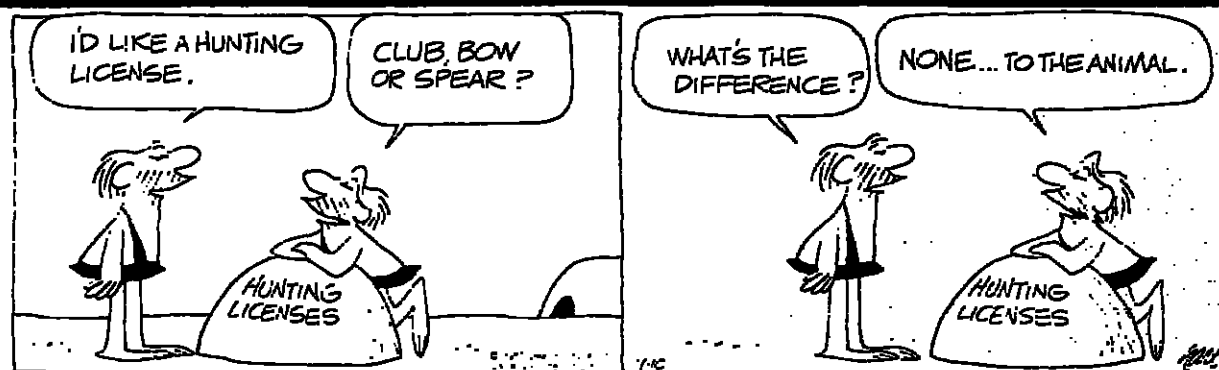
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You will have a good idea which will help you to resolve a tricky problem. You will not be in the best of moods so beware of treading on anyone's toes.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

If you expect more than you deserve you will be sorely disappointed. You should try to look on the bright side. Do not indulge a temptation to eat sweet things. Be provident.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

The more intelligence you bring to bear on the matter the better. You should have a little more faith in yourself. Do not just live from one minute to the next. Be careful.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will be able to clear up a misunderstanding. Do not expect to be able to run before you can walk. Others will not always agree with you, nor should you expect them to. Be resilient.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

A little more time spent attending to domestic chores is by no means time wasted. You will not be quite sure whether you have done the right thing. Never mind, there is still time to take corrective action.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

You should not allow anyone to deflect you from your objectives. Try to take your mind off work for the day. Do not place too much trust in your intuitions just now. Be confident.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You should not rely on luck to get you out of trouble. Take a little more care of your personal appearance. Do not think that love grows on trees. Be generous.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You should try to do things for yourself rather than relying on others. You will be better able to control your emotions. Make sure you maintain mechanical and electronic devices regularly.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

A problem will be easier to deal with than seemed at first. You should not think that time spent deliberating upon your situation is time wasted.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

Something you have been trying to learn will all of a sudden begin to fall into place. The solution to a problem will lie in a different direction to where you first thought.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You should not hesitate to try a new approach. Make sure you do not keep anything that is of no further use to you. Do all you can to stay on good terms with your partner. Be tactful.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

You should give others the benefit of any doubt. Try not to make matters more complicated than they already are. You should not act on the spur of the moment nor on impulse. Be reasonable.

SNIPPETS

Ban sought on employment of Pinos on Iraq, Iran ships

LABOUR leaders urged the government to ban employment of Filipino seamen in ships carrying the Iranian and Iraqi flags to prevent their exposure in war-torn Arabian Gulf region.

Trade Union Congress of the Philippines president Democrito Mendoza said the recent killing of 16 Filipino seamen in an Iraqi raid on an Iranian vessel is "an act of murder."

The government, particularly the Department of Labour and Employment, must ensure the safety of Filipino workers abroad, Mendoza said.

"If the DOLE could not ensure the safety of those Filipino workers, then it should not allow them to be exposed to the dangers of war, no matter what the economic incentives are for the workers and the nation's dollar earnings," he said.

He added that the past killings of Filipino seamen aboard Iranian or Iraqi vessels must now compel the government to "re-examine" its diplomatic relations with these two countries.

Robbers get P200,000 Xmas gift

A PARANAQUE businesswoman was robbed of jewelry worth P200,000 by two men who hid themselves in the ceiling in her house while they waited for the occupants leave for the Christmas dawn mass.

Police said the robbers entered the house through the kitchen door which they had forcibly opened.

Police, however, found plates with rice and peanuts, a glass of water, and two eggs on a saucer in the ceiling of the main comfort room.

The victim's house was ransacked by the robbers, police said.

Yuletide gift explodes, kills one

BUTUAN CITY: A large, galaxy-wrapped Christmas present delivered at a Yuletide party in this southern city exploded, killing the party's host and injuring seven people, a local radio station said.

Businessman Louie Tan, 40, was hosting a party for about 200 traders when he was given a large present by an unidentified man who said it came from "a close friend," the Radio Mindanao Network reported.

When Tan opened the parcel it exploded, killing him and injuring seven guests.

Police have not discovered the culprit or a motive for the killing, the radio said.

World's worst peacetime sea disaster

Lack of boats, fuel hampers salvage operation



Grief is hard to bear for those who discovered their relatives at a funeral parlour in Calapan.

CALAPAN, Oriental Mindoro: Danny Rios examined each of the 20 bodies but did not find what he was looking for: a leather money belt filled with cash and jewelry by which he could identify his missing grandmother.

After Rios, several more came. They too found nothing familiar among the decaying bodies, most of them charred and mangled beyond recognition after the world's worst peacetime disaster at sea this century.

The 20 bodies were among those found after the 2,215-ton ferry Dona Paz and the 629-ton oil tanker Victor collided, sparking a fire that sank both vessels last Sunday night off Mindoro island.

Only 26 survivors have been found from among the more than 1,600 people aboard the two ships, and officials in this provincial capital about 40 kilometres northwest of the collision site voiced fears of epidemics as bodies began washing ashore.

Among the people who examined the 20 bodies aboard the ferry boat Viva IV was Adriano Jordan, who travelled 720 kilometres through four provinces in three days searching for his wife, six-year-old daughter, two cousins, a nephew and an aunt.

He said the last time he saw his relatives alive was when he sent them off aboard the Dona Paz in

Tacloban City. It was their first trip to Manila and they were to have spent Christmas with other relatives in the city, Jordan added.

Coast Guard petty officer Pacifico Oximosa, who has been supervising the Viva IV's search for bodies, said the operation was being hampered by lack of boats and fuel for motorised bancas.

He said provincial authorities in Mindoro had run out of disinfectant for bodies that were washing up on the beaches. Officials said some communities had gone ahead and buried some bodies for fear of epidemics.

One official said, among the biggest problems in the recovery was handling the decaying bodies without further mangling them.

While Oximosa heaped praise on the owner of Viva IV, he had only scorn for Sulphur Shipping Lines, owner of the Dona Paz.

He said that while searching for bodies off Mindoro Wednesday, the Viva IV found the Sulcon 14, a Sulphur container ship anchored off Tuhod island, waiting for fishermen to bring in bodies.

"But they did not give us any assistance. They wouldn't lift a finger," Oximosa said. "There were many women in shorts aboard (the Sulcon 14) and they

and the crew seemed to be having... me."

Oximosa said he approached the Sulcon 14's captain to borrow one or two of the ship's lifeboats for use in the search, but he refused, saying they were defective.

The captain told him to borrow a fisherman's boat and that he would supply the gasoline, Oximosa recounted. "But when we finally found a boat, he said he had only four litres to spare. So we requested for more money and they said they had none. But I paid they were paying fishermen P15 per cadaver."

Due to the Christmas and New Year holidays, officials from Sulphur Lines were not available for comment on Oximosa's allegation that the shipping lines was not doing its best to help the search.

Oximosa said among the biggest problems in the recovery was handling the decaying bodies without further mangling them, and added that fatigue and sights and smells of his job were wearing him and his 13 soldiers down.

"But we have to go on," he said.



Madonna of peace

Two of the twenty bronze sculpture studies of 'Madonna of Peace' by sculptor Gil Serrano are shown above. The artist inspired by President Aquino compares her to the Madonna for her sincere concern in bringing peace to the Philippines. A 50-foot bronze monument will be erected at the CCP complex, Roxas Blvd. in Manila. It is believed that the statue could be a symbol for the Filipino quest for democracy and will be the counterpart of international landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty in New York and the Little Mermaid in Copenhagen.

Aquino accused of 'recycling' Marcos

THE PARTIDO ng Bayan (PnB) broke its long silence and lashed at the Aquino government for "reverting back to dynasty rule" reminiscent of the toppled Marcos regime.

"We are witnessing the recycling of the Marcos regime where political families once more lord over the country," PnB chairman Fidel Agcaoili said in a statement to People's Journal.

Agcaoili also assailed the Aquino government for condoning the alliances being forged by the ruling coalition with the former Marcos warlords. He said the ruling coalition has completely "forgotten their new allies (former KBL men) record of disservice to the Filipino people."

PnB secretary general Alan Jazmines said they will protest against Comelec resolution 1968 which provides the giving of copies of election returns only to the ruling coalition parties and the right-wing opposition.

Jazmines said the resolution is biased against the development of political pluralism in the country.

"There are other parties and candidates who provide better alternatives than the two dominant ones," he said.

Local elections: test of Aquino's mettle

TARLAC, Tarlac — The local elections on January 18 this year will be a test for President Aquino right in her own home province.

The political exercise will test her ability to unify two powerful political blocs — her own Cojuangco family's and that of her late husband's (Benigno Aquino's). Both these blocs have historically been the most powerful in the province.

At the same time, however, January 18 will also decide whether she is one with her provincemates in their choice of local leaders.

Since the electoral campaigns started three weeks ago, developments in Tarlac politics have made the province a virtual laboratory for President Aquino to test her political mettle in.

Her choice of National Tobacco administrator Mariano Un Ocampo III as administrator bet in the Tarlac gubernatorial race was not well received by her own Cojuangco family. Ocampo is a close associate of Sen. Agapito Aquino, and of her late husband Ninoy. The non-appearance of the three Tarlac congressmen — Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, the president's brother, Jose Yap, and Hermie Aquino — at Ocampo's proclamation rally was construed by many here as a direct rejection by the three congressmen of the President's choice of

Ocampo.

In the proclamation rally only Sen. Aquino and Ms. Aurora Aquino, the President's mother-in-law, were present. Conspicuously absent were the Cojuangcos of Hacienda Luisita.

Even after the proclamation of Ocampo by President Aquino at Malacanang, Tarlac officer-in-charge Candido Guim, identified with "Peping" Cojuangco and Jose Yap, who is also provincial chairman of the ruling party coalition, filed his certificate of candidacy 10 minutes before the deadline.

Earlier, the Tarlac Mayor's League had endorsed Guim for the governorship. Ocampo's proclamation was thus implicitly criticised by the league, with the criticism being addressed to the PPD-Laban leadership as well as the President.

Some mayor-designates said the choice of Ocampo was made without any consultation with them.

Those present at the proclamation in Malacanang, however, said that the three Tarlac congressmen, Sen. Aquino, and Guim himself were present and met with the President on Ocampo's designation.

Surveys conducted during the first week of the campaign showed Guim leading in the electoral contest. His candidacy was further bolstered by the withdrawal of candidate Bert Castro, an independent who is related to the Aquinos and one of the managers of the Cojuangco-owned Hacienda Luisita.

In his withdrawal letter to the Commission on Elections, Castro said he was pulling out of the race in favour of Guim. Tarlacenos had believed earlier that Castro would be the administration's choice.

Guim's strength, and Ocampo's turning into an underdog has placed many local leaders in a dilemma. Some are openly supporting the administration bet, Ocampo, but are extending covert assistance to Guim.

Peping Cojuangco, however, has met with Guim and asked him to withdraw from the race, an indication that Cojuangco would be supporting Cory's candidate so as not to contribute to the erosion of the Cory magic in her own hometown.

This development, and the presence of Rep. Hermie Aquino in various rallies endorsing Ocampo has strengthened the latter's candidacy. It was also learned that Rep. Yap, the closest to Guim among the three congressmen, has already adopted a "hands-off" policy towards the election for governor.

The political clash between the Aquinos and the Cojuangcos has also been momentarily put to rest

with an apparent agreement between them on wive for the provincial board.

Three of the ten members of the board and vice-governor candidate Rodolfo Llamas are identified with Peping's group. Three more were named by Rep. Hermie Aquino and the other three by Rep. Jose Yap. It is expected that with this development, Ocampo could win the governorship, and reestablish Cory's authority — and magic — in her home province.

Meanwhile, in Concepcion, hometown of the late Sen. Benigno Aquino, bloc within the Aquino family itself have developed. Hermie Aquino family itself has developed. Hermie Aquino is campaigning for office-in-charge Dan David in the mayoralty race, while Butz Aquino and his mother Ms. Aurora Aquino have endorsed another aspirant, Titus Valdez. Both candidates are relatives of the Aquinos.

The differences between the two groups have bolstered the bid of former mayor Nicolas Feliciano Jr. for the same post. Feliciano was mayor of the town before martial law and was replaced in February 1986 by Fred Avena. Avena was replaced by David two months ago. He is now a vice-mayorality contender, running under the Valdez group — Philippine News and Features.

From Singapore with nothing

By Ding T. Marcelo

LEONIDA RAQUEL thought this would be the best Christmas her family would ever have. A year ago she left her farm to take a job as a domestic helper in Singapore. The job was a dream come true.

For much of her life — and her family's — has been a constant struggle to survive. She worked as a tenant in a rice farm in Narvacan, Ilocos Sur; her husband drove a passenger jeepney.

With four children, the money they earned was always not enough. Food was scarce and the children's simplest needs were barely met.

Then this job in Singapore came along. Sure they said working abroad was hard work, but she has known hard work all her life. Besides, she would get 250 Singapore dollars, equivalent to P2,500 as monthly salary. She knew Singapore would be a dream job.

So when she bade goodbye to her family at the airport, she cried a river. Her husband cried, too, and so did the four children.

Last week, Leonida was back in Manila. As she had left, so was she now in tears. She had been sent home by her employer without her completing even one year of her two-year contract.

"I don't know why she did it," she said wiping her tears. "My

employer simply told me we were going home and that I had to pack everything — now."

"I thought we were just going to her in-laws where I would work for a few days. But they brought me to the airport where they handed me the ticket and my passport."

Asked what she thought the reason could have been, Leonida says, "I don't know."

She, however, recalled an incident the day before when her employers' youngest child, about 17 months old, whom she was assigned to look after, fell down nine steps of stairs.

It was not her fault, she insisted, because at the time, she was asked to do something else. The baby, however, was unharmed.

Looking back, Leonida thinks it is perhaps better for her to go and seek other employment. She says her stay at the house where there were five maids to serve 16 people was an ordeal.

"We were given leftovers even when the refrigerator was bursting with food," she recalls. "No one was allowed to touch the food until everyone in the family had eaten."

Most of the time, she says, only what the family left of the fish was given to the maids, made up of four Filipinas and one Indonesian.

They also worked together handwashing the clothes although the house had a washing

machine.

To top it all she was not paid her month's salary and was told it was used to pay for her fare home.

Fellow passengers told her she could complain. File a protest with the Philippine Embassy in Singapore. They told her that employers who send their maids home without sufficient reason must shoulder transportation expenses.

But Leonida, too confused and too shocked by the sudden turn of events did not know what to do. Nor did she have time on her side, even if she had figured out things better. She was not even able to buy decent luggage to pack her things. All her clothes were in plastic bags. She carried three of them to the airplane, the other two she checked in.

Asked where she planned to go, she said, "Home."

"Are they expecting you?"

"No."

"Do you have money with you?"

"P20."

As the plane landed, she bowed her head, fighting back tears, oblivious to the Christmas carols playing in the background.

Around her, returning contract workers and domestic helpers were beaming, their backs bent, their hands full from carrying the heavy cassettes, toys and fruits for their families.

Basketball roundup

1987: an unlucky year for the professional league

By Gabby Alvarado

THIRTEEN is not a lucky number.

And the Philippine Basketball Association, though far from superstitious, had to bear with the curse usually attributed to the ominous numeral during the entire 1987 season.

Gross gate receipts and attendance figures plummeted to a near all-time low in the season, the PBA's 12th since opening house in 1975, that saw a number of strange twists and quirks and turns.

From a high P13.5 million the previous year, gross gate receipt figures dropped to just slightly over P11.4 million — already a substantial 15 per cent difference in itself. Average game-day attendance went down from 5,765 in 1986 to 4,480 for a much bigger 22 per cent downward swing.

Although there were 91 playing days in 1987, three more than the previous season, the average daily income at the Ultra likewise fell by 17 per cent.

It was a comedown for the PBA as far as box-office is concerned, coming as it did after a banner year in 1986.

Smoke signals, though, had appeared as early as the off-season.

Busiest

Manila Beer, increasingly bothered by financial troubles and sequestration problems, decided to go on a leave of absence, pruning down further the already small field to just six.

Even Ginebra San Miguel, proud winner of the Open conference championship in 1986, was uncertain about its participation due to similar

problems. Fortunately, San Miguel Corp. came to the rescue of the floundering La Tondena firm and ensured its continued existence in the league.

Still, the year's off-season proved the busiest since the league's inception.

In an effort to shore up their respective frontlines, Great Taste Coffee, later renamed Instant Milk, and Shell Azorecord swapped players. The series of tradings and clear manoeuvrings saw slotman Manny Victorino and guard Jimmy Manansala end up on the Shell bench and veterans Philip Cezar and Bernie Fabiosa, along with the first round draft pick, who later turned out to be Allan Caidic, turning up for Great Taste.

Also signed up by the Gokongwei club were veteran free agents Arnulfo Tuadles, Fortunato Co, Ranulfo Robles, Aldo Perez and Noli Banate. Thus, together with the prolific Ricardo Brown, the Coffee-makers formed the league's most dreaded offensive machine.

At the same time, Shell traded the aging William Adornado, who saw an unprecedented string of 63 converted free throws snapped early in the Second Conference, to Hills Bros in exchange for power-forward Rey Cuenca and rookie Alfonso Solis.

Eventual most valuable player of the year awarder Alberto Guidaben and fellow Manila Beer holdover Ricky Cui ended up with Magnolia Ice Cream while Elpidio Villamin, who was previously eyeing a slot with the team, landed on Hills Bros.

For the first time, too, a formal offer sheet was served a cager.

Tanday Rum, winner of two of a possible three championships in 1986, made the offer



Gross gate receipts and attendance figures plummeted to a near all-time low in the season.

— stipulating among others a P20,000 monthly salary, including P120,000 in advance, on top of a goodwill money — to beante pole Romulo Mamaril.

Not all the build-ups yielded positive results, though.

Shell, in particular, finished dead last in the First Conference, was second to be cut in the next

and a poor fourth place in the season's last offering.

Tanday, with the former Boston Celtic reserve guard David Thirkill in its wing, blasted Great Taste, four games to one, to capture the initial tournament and the only championship that eluded it the previous year — the Open.

Firmed up by what was easily the tallest and most experienced five in the entire league, the Rummakers were favoured to win the next two conferences and realise a grand slam.

Alas, the Rummakers, greatly affected by the purge of company executives and personnel changes both offshoots of the infamous fake rum scandal, could finish no better than last place in the final two conferences.

And in both instances that they fell, it was bitter rival Ginebra that performed the death rituals on them.

Great Taste, after a strong runner-up finish behind Tanday in the kick-off tournament, demolished Hills Bros, three games to nil, in a series between teams with no legitimate centres to bag the All-Filipino championship.

It marked only the first time in the last six conferences that the Coffee-makers won the crown.

A brief interlude followed next.

The newly-formed International Basketball Federation (IBAF) held its pilot tournament at the PBA's adopted home in Pasig. And the North American selection, spearheaded by the celebrated Ray Hill and tiny Bobby Joe Crockett lived up to its billing when it defeated Great Taste, 130-112, for the title.

It was after this brief that Hills Bros, which languished fourth and last after faring well in the All-Filipino, dumped coach Nat Canson in favour of ousted Arturo Valenzona of Tanday.

Valenzona, whose street smart basketball gifted Tanday with three championships in five conferences, proved himself worthy of management's trust when he

piloted the Coffee Kings to their second straight finals stint since joining the league in 1985.

And it took a follow-up by the ailing Jose Slaughter in the final two seconds to lift Hills Bros past the Billy Ray Bates-led Ginebra, 89-87, to earn the right to meet San Miguel Beer in a best-of-seven title series.

Plum

That controversial win was placed under protest. But the commissioner's office turned it down.

Thus, irate Ginebra fans threatened to boycott the games. San Miguel then drew from its vast reservoir of talents and went on to best the injury plagued club, four games to one, in the finals to end a five-year title drought.

And where was Great Taste, all the time? It also went the way of Tanday.

Thus, for the first time in the last six years, three different teams captured the three different conferences in a season.

No single team repeated as champion. And the champions in the first two conferences failed to figure prominently in the last conference.

The season likewise saw Guidaben with his second MVP plum, Caidic became the third rookie to be voted the year's most promising player and at the same time land the Mythical Five, Thirkill and Bobby Parks split the Best Import awards and Bates fail to carry his team to the finals for the first time in four conferences.

Villamin, the year's most improved cager, made it to the Mythical Five along with Cezar and the pint-sized Hector Calma.



Manila's fat cats

By Eva S. Diaz

METRO Manila may just be a spot on the Philippine map but it is here, not in any other region, where the most meat, eggs, chicken, milk and milk products are consumed, a recent food survey showed.

Research by the Food and Nutrition Research Institute showed that coming hand in hand with this food consumption is Metro Manilans' vulnerability to heart diseases.

The study showed that since 1978, Metro Manilans have increasingly shifted to fatty food, especially pork and chicken, lessening their fish intake.

It directly assaulted the high number of heart diseases in the metropolis to its residents' food habits. Metro Manila ranks first in heart and related diseases, according to the survey.

It also noted that vegetables are rarely eaten by Metro Manilans as a supplement to meat unlike rural dwellers.

The study also showed that: ● People of Southern Tagalog are next to Metro Manilans as the largest consumers of milk and milk products. Those in Bicol and Eastern Visayas are among the lowest. ● Those in Central Luzon eat the most number of eggs, also next to those in the metropolis. Folks in Central Visayas and Bicol eat the least of the poultry product. ● Bicolanos are the lowest consumers of pork and chicken. ● Ilocanos consume the most "bagoong," which nutritionists also relate to incidence of cardiovascular diseases in their region.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

New strategy needed to boost overseas investments

Loans settlement scheme may not bring 'vital changes'

By M.C. Bose

THE well-known Kuwaiti economist, Jassem Al Sadoun, has said the achievement of the bank loans settlement scheme would not lead to any essential change in local economic activity because the programme was very expensive for the government and this would limit its financial capabilities.

He pointed out that banks backed by the government as a result of the programme would remain inactive for a long period. He added that a glance at the level of the shares of these banks until the end of 1987 was clear evidence of this.

The share prices of only the National Bank, Real Estate Bank and Kuwait Finance House increased and they were not backed by the programme.

He said that dealers were of two types: One was those who presented everything they had in paying their banks loans and

therefore had nothing left to be active with; the other was those who had not given all they had but could not become active for fear of being penalised for hiding their funds.

He said that the profits and level of activity of most of the local banks appeared to be decided by the Central Bank and thus had no incentive to become active.

About the recent Opec meeting, he stressed that what had happened was a freeze or postponement of their dispute and not an extension of their December 1986 agreement because basically there was no agreement.

Prices
He said that the 1986 agreement stated that oil prices should remain around \$18 a barrel and that the production ceiling would be around 16 million barrels a day.

Most Opec members fall into one of three categories. The first group violates their production

quota level by overproducing; the second group violates the price limit by providing discounts, and the third group does both.

Al Sadoun said this was sufficient reason for oil prices to go down in the near future.

He predicted that Opec members will face tougher conditions during 1988 because of their own violations of production quotas, the drop in the US dollar exchange rate because the dollar is the oil currency, and the expected drop in demand for oil during 1988 because of expected lower development rate in industrialised countries caused by the recent crisis in the world stock markets.

Al Sadoun said that Kuwait's revenue during 1987 was better than the previous year, mainly due to the steady price of oil which remained around \$18 per barrel almost throughout the year except the last part, compared to the \$10 per barrel during 1986.

He rejected the statement that a hike in the share prices of companies was a clear indication of an improvement in their business activities in Third World countries. He pointed out that this statement applied to advanced countries but not to developing ones, including Kuwait. Any improvement in share prices therefore did not have any positive meaning to business growth. The Al Manakh stock market crisis of 1982 for instance, had no positive economic results and if oil prices had continued to rise, Kuwait would not have felt the crisis at all.

He said that the living standards prevailing in Kuwait had little to do with the performance of firms in the country. Share prices in Kuwait were related more to government spending capability irrespective of productivity or activity of companies.

Al Sadoun said that Kuwait's overseas investments were influenced by developments in

world stock markets, Kuwait's investments in advance countries kept growing until the Oct 1987 crash, when investments lost part of their value.

Investments
Regarding ways to boost such overseas investments, Al Sadoun said this could be done by working out a strategy for internal development and considering overseas investments as a temporary extension of the internal strategy that could be exploited in transfer of technology and training of personnel.

He said that since Kuwait's internal investments centred mainly around petrochemical products, a good part of the overseas investments could be centred around chemical industries, and their marketing, finance and research companies. The strategy could be extended to developing countries as partners and prospective markets.

He agreed with calls to change the state budget accounting system in order to take into account

all revenues including those of overseas investments, and all expenditure including those outside the budget.

If this was done Kuwait would still be faced with a budget deficit in 1987-88 and subsequent fiscal years.

Al Sadoun said that between five to seven million barrels of oil passed through the Hormuz Straits daily. But if the war continued for another two years, the Straits would lose half their importance.

Expectations
He agreed with expectations that an inflationary recession wave may hit the whole world in the near future, and said the wave may begin by the end of this decade or the start of the next one.

He said that some people expect worse situations and predict a crash similar to that of 1929, and this may become the only way to overcome the prevailing financial, monetary and commercial crises.

Big American bank ending operations in Peru

LIMA, Peru, Jan 2, (AP): The government says Chase Manhattan Bank will shut down its operations in Peru, where banks have been hampered by the country's economic woes and bombings by leftist terrorists.

The announcement also came less than three months after Peru nationalised domestic banks and placed restrictions on foreign banking.

The superintendency of banks and insurance cancelled, at Chase's request, the American bank's permit to operate in the country, said the announcement published on Thursday in the government's official gazette.

Chase Manhattan spokesmen were not immediately available for comment and there was no word on when Chase will close its doors in Peru.

In a controversial move in October, the centre-left government of President Alan Garcia nationalised all Peruvian banks, insurance and finance companies. The measure did not affect foreign banks but the government banned those institutions from doing business in US dollars.

Five foreign-owned banks remain in Peru. Those banks include the US companies Citibank and Bank of America and the Bank of Tokyo, the Bank of London and South America Ltd. and Banco Central de Madrid.

According to the authoritative economic magazine the Andean Report, several of the remaining banks are cutting back on operations in the face of continuing business problems.

UK crude production to decline over the years

LONDON, Jan 2, (Opecna): UK petroleum production from the North Sea will be reduced sharply in the next four years, according to figures released by the Department of Energy.

The department's oil production forecast from the North Sea states that in 1988 Britain will produce an average of between 2.10 million b/d and 2.50 million b/d, between 1.90 million and 2.40 million b/d in 1989, between 1.70 million and 2.30 million b/d in 1990 and between 70 million and 105 million b/d in 1991.

The department said the volumes would include natural gas liquids which would account for between six to eight million tonnes annually of total UK production for 1988-91.

The report said last year the country had produced a total of 2.55 million b/d, including 5.8 million tonnes of natural gas liquids. Earlier this month, analysts said in Paris that since 1986 oil production in non-Opec oil producing countries had been slashed owing to low oil prices, resulting in exploration budgets being cut by 25 to 30 per cent.

The number of operating rigs in the US over the same period was down to 633, the lowest since 1940, adding that only four years ago 4,500 rigs were believed to guarantee energy independence. They noted that in 15 years, North Sea fields would be exhausted, adding that the same thing would be witnessed in Canada and Australia.

They concluded that huge oil reserves in Opec countries like Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait would last until the next century.

Iran predicts increase in oil prices

NICOSIA, Jan 2, (AP): Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh today predicted an early increase in the price of oil, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Aqazadeh also denied reports Japan was cutting down its oil imports from Iran and noted that an Iranian delegation is to visit Tokyo in two weeks' time to discuss future sales.

He said he foresees an early increase in oil prices, said the agency, which is monitored in Nicosia.

Recovered
Oil prices, which were falling immediately after last month's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Geneva, have continuously recovered in the past two weeks, Aqazadeh was quoted as saying.

The Opec meeting rejected an Iranian demand for an increase in the organisation's benchmark oil price of \$18 per barrel by at least \$2, to make up for the drop in the value of the dollar.

The meeting agreed however to adhere to a collective produc-

tion limit of 15.06 million barrels a day, to maintain the official price of \$18 a barrel. Prices began improving on the international market after Opec members which had been exceeding their individual production quotas began cutting back.

Strategy
Aqazadeh pointed out that the only strategy capable of safeguarding the interests of Opec members was adherence to the production quotas, Iran reported.

The Iranian minister ruled out the likelihood of an extraordinary Opec meeting in the near future, stating this would depend on the operation of the member states.

Escalation
Aqazadeh also denied claims that Iranian oil exports had fallen recently as a result of the escalation of Iraqi air raids against Iranian oil installations and tankers in recent weeks.

"The Iranian Oil Ministry has abided, by its export commitments," Iran quoted him as saying.

Reports of a cutdown of Japanese oil imports from Iran followed last month's offer by the National Iranian Oil Co. of substantial discounts to its Japanese customers, if they fulfilled their contractual liftings in December.

The discounts ranged between 80 cents and \$1 per barrel off the official price, with gradations according to volume performance.

The total volume of contractual Japanese purchases of Iranian oil for the fourth quarter of 1987 amounted to 260,000 barrels per day, according to the authoritative Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey.

Agreements
Aqazadeh said that an Iranian delegation will visit Tokyo in two weeks' time to sign new agreements for 1988 oil purchases.

Earlier this week, oil industry sources in Tokyo said Japanese buyers of Iranian crudes had responded to diplomatic pressure from the United States to cut imports. The sources said the buyers

had cut their combined import volume for the calendar year 1988 by 30 per cent, to 200,000 barrels per day, from that being bought under existing contracts.

Iran, received in Cyprus, said Aqazadeh forecast an early increase in oil prices and dismissed the likelihood of an Opec extraordinary session being held in the near future.

In Lagos last Thursday, a Nigerian official said Iran had asked the president of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), Rikman Lukman of Nigeria, to call an urgent meeting of a key committee to look at sliding oil prices.

Alex Nwokedi, chief spokesman for the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp. told Reuters the Iranians were told such a meeting of the group's five-nation monitoring committee was premature.

The Iran report of Aqazadeh's comments on prices did not indicate by what amount the minister expected them to increase. Opec's official price is \$18 a barrel.

Iran to set up 5 pharmaceutical plants

BANDAR ABAS, Iran, Jan 2, (Opecna): Five large pharmaceutical plants are to be set up in the central and northern provinces of the country in the next three years, says an official announcement.

Abbas Niknezhad, Deputy Minister for Health, who is in charge of pharmaceuticals, told a press conference here yesterday that Iran would soon reach self-sufficiency in pharmaceuticals.

He said medicines worth \$971 million had been distributed in the country during the last eight months, an increase of more than 10 per cent over the same period in the earlier year and 18.6 per cent compared to 1977.

The Deputy Minister said that Iran manufactured pharmaceuticals worth more than \$835 million every year.

He added that a number of important steps had recently been taken to export Iranian-made medicines to several countries of Africa, Asia and the Far East.

Falling oil prices may determine Venezuela's political future

CARACAS, Jan 2, (AP): The shaky oil market has combined with inflation, unemployment and foreign debt to make once-affluent Venezuelans view 1988 with gloom.

The price of oil, the nation's chief export item, has fallen well below the \$18-a-barrel benchmark price of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

In an effort to remain competitive in the US market, where most of its oil is sold, Venezuela has cut the price by as much as \$2.50 a barrel for its heavy crudes, the bulk of its oil exports.

Fallout
Applied to total oil exports of about 1.5 million barrels daily throughout a year, the cut would represent a falloff of more than \$1 billion.

Since oil accounts for more than 90 per cent of Venezuelan export earnings and 70 per cent of its fiscal revenue, lower prices will probably mean more inflation and an even harder life for more than 2.5 million unemployed or underemployed.

During the 1970s when oil money flowed in, unemployment rates ranged 4 to 5 per cent, considered very low by Latin American standards. But thereafter rose sharply to 9.8 per cent this year and inflation, a relatively new phenomenon, will easily surpass the 30 per cent level, according to official estimates.

The percentage may seem a trifle on a continent where triple-digit inflation has been always low, 30 per cent represents a historic high.

All this will be debated in the campaign for presidential elections in December, 1988.

Both inflation and unemployment have been at the root of a wave of student violence that in November spread over five Venezuelan cities. Three people died in clashes with the police and dozens were injured.

The riots are considered a test for the Venezuelan democratic system to see whether it can deal with social unrest in times of economic constraint. In the past, most of the problems were easily solved, thanks to oil wealth.

"The student movement cannot be isolated from the economic plight the country is experiencing," said Elias Ejuri Abraham, dean of the economic and social sciences faculty of Central University of Caracas.

They graduate, could be the same as that of so many unemployed professionals.

A major complaint is over the high price of food. According to Alex Ferguson, a Caracas University lecturer, seven out of 10 Venezuelans are now suffering from malnutrition because of inflation.

In addition, rice, sugar and other staples are growing scarce in a country that a few years ago had plenty of everything.

According to government estimates, oil income in 1988 will come to \$9 billion, less than a half of what it was six years ago.

Of the total export income of \$10.5 billion, \$8.8 billion will be spent on imports. A new deficit in the balance of payments is likely, since \$3.5 billion will go toward serving the nation's \$34 billion foreign debt.

Venezuela, Latin America's fourth-largest debtor after Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, scheduled \$21.2 billion of its debt in 1986, after two years of negotiations. The ink had not dried when the country, forced by the collapse of the oil prices, requested new terms. Another agreement was reached early in 1987, but the government has already made it clear that as oil goes so will the country's repayment of its foreign debt.

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Hong Kong's former stock chief questioned by anti-graft squad

HONG KONG, Jan 2, (Reuters): The former chairman of Hong Kong's Stock Exchange and two top aides were today arrested by members of the British colony's anti-graft agency and later released on bail.

The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) arrested former stock exchange chief Ronald Li, 58, and aides Jeffrey Sun and Donald Tsang in connection with a probe of suspected corruption.

An ICAC spokesman tonight said the three were released on bail pending further inquiries. Li's bail was set at \$1,300,000, Sun's at \$520,000 and Tsang's at \$40,000.

Empowered
The independent agency, empowered to investigate and bring charges against public corruption, did not elaborate on the move, saying only that it began a probe before the October market slide.

No charges have been filed. The agency has 48 hours to question suspects before deciding whether to press charges.

"I was told this morning," said senior stock exchange official Robert Fell, describing his reaction as "one of surprise, one of considerable shock."

Li, the stock exchange's best known and most controversial figure, stepped aside as chairman last month after the maximum two terms at the helm.

Now a vice-chairman, he piloted the merger of four rival bourses into a single unified market in 1986.

Criticism
But he also came under criticism for his role in closing the exchange for four days in October as world share prices plunged, a move that many brokers said worsened the near-shattering slide in share prices once trading resumed.

The Hang Seng index, the colony's main stock indicator, fell 33 per cent on the reopening of trading on October 26, prompting calls for market reform and widespread complaints about Li's management.

Li has also come under fire for his bid to list on the exchange the shares of an upmarket girls bar in which he is an investor.

Sun resigned as chief executive of the exchange last November, saying he planned to emigrate to Canada. Tsang heads the exchange's listing department, though he has been temporarily removed from his duties.

Commercial fortunes poised for a long-awaited turnaround

US trade deficit to set new record

WASHINGTON, Jan 2, (Reuters): The US trade deficit for 1987 appears certain to hit another record high, but economists believe that the country's commercial fortunes are poised for a long-awaited turnaround.

The impact of devastated dollar, its value continuing to erode to new post-war lows, is bound to show up as an improvement in the lopsided trade performance, financial analysts say.

Unfair
At the same time, the United States is continuing to press for an end to what it views as unfair practices by its trading partners, which eventually should help improve the situation.

Predictions by trade experts in and out of government put the 1987 deficit near or above \$170 billion, topping the 1986 figure of \$156.2 billion — itself a record.

They add, however, that while the shortfall will hit a new high, US exports are gradually rising and imports slowing as the falling dollar increases the cost of imports and drives down the price of American goods overseas.

Shortfall
"I think there is going to be improvement (in 1988)," said John Kline, a professor of international trade at Georgetown University. "The dollar is certainly going to have some effect."

But he added in an interview that "I don't expect a massive turnaround. It's going to take several years before we see significant improvement in the numbers."

The Reagan administration took unprecedented steps in 1987 to open foreign markets to US goods, from semiconductors to tobacco to farm products, and

acted to end the illegal 'dumping' of foreign goods on the US market.

When the October trade figures were released, Commerce Department officials said the shortfall was running at an annual rate of \$175 billion. They say there has been nothing since to suggest the final 1987 deficit will be much under that figure.

And they add gloomily that it could take more months for the effects of the devalued dollar — which dropped by 23 per cent against the Japanese yen last year and by 18 per cent against the West German mark — to show up in the import-export statistics.

Kline said many foreign firms have had high profit margins over the past several years and have absorbed the lower dollar by cutting profits rather than losing their US market.

In addition, Kline said, "a number of imported products have consumer loyalty and won't be easily abandoned (by American buyers)."

He said the administration was making the right moves to open Japanese and other markets to US products and to end the dumping of imports on the American market. Japan has been the main target of the anti-dumping actions.

Plants
Kline also said more Japanese and other foreign firms are building plants in the United States to make goods for the US market and that will help cut imports.

But in the short run, the expected rise in the deficit in 1987 will blunt the administration's case against the trade bill now being weighed by Congress, which it has labelled protectionist.

North Yemen sees sharp cut in budget deficit

SANAA, Jan 2, (Reuters): North Yemen, the world's newest oil exporting nation, announced on Wednesday that it would cut its budget deficit in the coming year by nearly a half.

The impoverished Red Sea country, which earlier this month turned on the taps for its first commercial oil exports, put the deficit at 1.82 billion riyals (\$190 million) compared with 3.52 billion (\$365 million) in 1987.

An official statement after a Council of Ministers meeting projected revenues of 13.72 billion riyals (\$1.4 billion), up from 8.31 billion riyals (\$860 million).

The budget, which has yet to be approved by the People's Assembly, forecast expenditure of 15.54 billion riyals (\$1.6 billion), up from 11.83 billion riyals (\$1.2 billion).

World Business Summary

Japanese economy to face severe test

TOKYO, Jan 2, (Kama): Most Japanese economists expressed the belief that their country's economy will face a severe test in the New Year, predicting it will grow 3-4 per cent, while that of the US by 1.9 per cent, in forecasts accentuated by a gloomy outlook and fears of recession. Airing their views in a television programme broadcast this morning, 50 economic experts and commentators agreed Japan will have to expand its domestic demand in order to meet persistent demand and pressure from Western nations as the only way to boost the economy which has been depending on exports into postwar years. In addition to increased Japanese private investments, the government expects the domestic demand will expand real gross national product (GNP) by a large margin over 1986.

While the experts estimated that the US dollar will hover around an exchange rate of 110-120 yen, the government said earlier the rate will average 133 yen for the dollar.

There are fears here of a recession, said some economists, adding that the Japanese economy will continue its recovery until the middle of 1988. Because of the dollar-yen exchange rate fluctuation, there was concern among participants in the programme over chances of Japan's economic expansion this year, as the year's appreciation would cut deep into the profits of many Japanese companies which depend heavily on exports. They further pointed out that there is need for a meeting of the Group of Seven industrial nations of Britain, Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States in order to work out a new plan for stabilising major currency exchange rates. Many of the speakers said the world economy as a whole depends on whether the US economy will improve or continue dipping in the post-Reagan era and also a lot depends on the dollar's soft or hard landing during the current year.

India boosts exports

NEW DELHI, Jan 2, (Kama): India has succeeded in containing the steep deterioration in trade balance and made strides in export of various goods during 1986-87.

These details were provided by the Reserve Bank of India in its latest report. The report shows that exports increased sharply to 20.4 per cent in 1986-87 as against a decline of 7.8 per cent in the previous financial year. Growth in imports also slowed down to 9.2 per cent from 11.1 per cent. As a result merchandise trade deficit which has widened sharply by 53 per cent of \$7.9 billion in 1985-86 narrowed down to \$7.5 billion in 1986-87. In terms of special drawing rights (SDRs) exports were higher by 0.8 per cent in 1986-87 as compared to a decline of 14.8 per cent in the previous year. Imports were lower by 8.6 per cent as against an increase of 2.9 per cent respectively. There were no crude oil exports during the year. The non-oil exports accordingly grew by 22 per cent in 1986-87 as against 5.7 per cent during the previous year.

Significant increases were recorded in exports of gems and jewellery, leather and leather products, engineering goods, chemicals and allied products. Substantial declines in exports were recorded under mineral fuels, lubricants and related products and tea. Exports of gems and jewellery formed the largest single source of foreign exchange earnings accounting for nearly one-sixth of total exports in 1986-87. These exports rose by \$530 million from \$1.4 billion in 1985-86 to \$2 billion in 1986-87.

Bond issue a success: Khorafi

KUWAIT'S Finance Minister Jassem Al Khorafi said yesterday that the New Year would be one of economic recovery and a year of fruition where efforts to rectify economic conditions would become visible.

According to a local daily, the minister said the programme of government borrowing is progressing according to schedule. He stressed Kuwait's keenness on maximum utilisation of this facility and assured government interest in making the tool serve positively the national economy without leaving behind any negative impact.

Khorafi, who is leaving Kuwait for Jordan today, said he would take part in an Arab expert meeting in Amman to review a report on the performance of Arab development and lending institutions. The report of the eight-man expert committee will be submitted to the Arab League's economic and social council, scheduled to meet in Tunis on February 4, he said.

The Finance Minister leaves Amman on Tuesday for Egypt on an official visit at the invitation of his Egyptian counterpart. In Cairo, Khorafi stated an appraisal of Kuwaiti investments in Egypt would be undertaken with the aim of promoting them and reviewing best means for joint economic action between Kuwait and Egypt.

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1/9958	Valves Globe 3/4"	KD.2/-	11.1.88-12.00 noon

Tender documents can be purchased from the administration services dept. at KNPC head office from 4.1.1988

CURRENCY & BUSINESS

ARAB TIMES, SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1988

Alshall stock price indices

Sharp increase in Kuwait trade volume

ALSHALL Index for Kuwaiti Shareholding Companies recorded on Wednesday, an average of 41.81 points with an increase of 1.37 points over last week. Alshall Index for Gulf Shareholding Companies reached 50.6 points with an increase of 0.74 points over the same period.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 33.47 million shares at a daily average of 6.69 million shares with an increase of about 42.32 per cent over the previous week daily average of 4.6 million shares.

Gulf traded shares reached 12.28 million shares at a daily average of 2.46 million shares with a substantial decrease of 79 per cent from last week daily average of 11.73 million shares.

The market performance showed an abnormal increase similar to what usually happens towards the end of the financial year. Most of the increase took place at the end of evening session of the last trading day of the week which is the last day of trading for the year.

The objective of this is to increase the portfolio values of the companies to improve their financial statements. The increase in the price indices was about 3.4 per cent for Kuwaiti shares and 1.5 per cent for Gulf shares.

The market closed with a difference of about 9 points or about 20 per cent in favour of Gulf price index. The banking sector had the lead in the traded Kuwaiti shares at a high level of about 69 per cent of the total with National Bank of Kuwait 28 per cent of this sector trading, followed by the Commercial Bank of 25 per cent, the Gulf Bank at 15 per cent and Burgan Bank at 10 per cent.

The services sector came second in total trading at 14 per cent while Mobile Telephone Systems having a high share of 61 per cent followed by Kuwait Commercial Markets 22 per cent and Public Warehousing Co. 8 per cent. The real estate sector came third at 7 per cent of total trading of which United Realty Co. had 61 per cent, Kuwait Real Estate 24 per cent and National Real Estate 15 per cent.

For Gulf shares market the financial sector had the lead at 78 per cent of total trading of which Coast Investment Company had 44 per cent, Bahrain International Bank 20 per cent and Gulf Investment Company 16 per cent.

Insurance Sector			
Kuwait Insurance Co.	43.49	41.86	1.63
Gulf Insurance Co.	34.23	31.54	2.69
Alahlela Insurance Co.	48.73	47.93	0.80
Warba Insurance Co.	92.78	87.63	5.15
Sector Index	44.58	42.62	1.97
Real Estate Sector			
Kuwait Real Estate	36.96	36.96	—
National Realty	15.64	14.97	0.67
United Real Estate	49.77	48.57	1.19
Sector Index	26.86	26.31	0.55
Industrial Sector			
Kuwait Cement Co.	19.77	18.06	1.70
Refrigeration Indust.	84.69	83.65	1.05
Gulf Cables	107.99	104.90	3.09
Kuwait Pharmaceutical	97.78	85.33	12.44
Sector Index	37.48	35.16	2.32
Services Sector			
Kuwait Computer Co.	213.84	216.00	-2.16
Kuwait Cinema Co.	10.37	9.42	0.95
Public Warehousing Co.	98.99	97.98	1.01
Kuwait Comm. Markets Co.	36.95	36.95	—
Mobile Telephone Syst.	380.95	380.95	—
Sector Index	73.04	72.32	0.72
Food Sector			
Livestock Trad. & Transp.	55.94	50.85	5.09
United Fisheries	10.91	10.20	0.71
Kuwait United Poultry	102.68	91.68	11.00
Kuwait Food Co.	79.31	70.11	9.20
Sector Index	49.53	44.60	4.93
Overall Index	41.81	40.45	1.37

Gulf shareholding companies index	Wednesday 30/12/87	Wednesday 23/12/87	Change points
Financial Companies			
First Gulf Bank	228.95	228.95	—
United Gulf Bank	34.48	34.48	—
Bahrain Internat. Bank	100.69	100.69	—
Bahrain M. East Bank	100.61	104.41	-3.80
Pearl Investment Co.	56.81	56.81	—
Gulf Investments Co.	63.24	61.76	1.47
Coast Inv. & Dev. Co.	85.71	83.98	1.73
Bahrain Kuwait Inv. Gro.	78.86	72.67	6.18
Arabian Gen. Inv. (Shuaa)	63.64	65.15	-1.52
Sector Index	67.64	66.69	0.95
Other Companies			
Gulf Cement (fully paid)	13.68	13.68	—
Shargah Cement	9.00	7.00	2.00
Fujaira Cement	9.87	9.21	0.66
Ajman Cement	10.00	10.00	—
RAK Cement	18.33	19.44	-1.11
Gulf Medical Projects	16.55	16.55	—
Poultry & Fodder R. Alkha	36.36	36.36	—
Sector Index	13.35	13.06	0.28
Overall Index	50.60	49.87	-0.74
Base Period 31/12/1983.			

Kuwait shareholding companies index	Wednesday 30/12/87	Wednesday 23/12/87	Change points
Banking Sector			
Kuwait National Bank	94.08	93.15	0.92
The Gulf Bank	33.96	33.54	0.42
The Commercial Bank	24.82	23.95	0.87
Alahli Bank	37.00	36.04	0.96
Bank of Kuwait & M. East	27.63	24.56	3.07
Kuwait R. Estate Bank	38.89	36.51	2.38
Burgan Bank	28.24	27.75	0.50
Kuwait Finance House	66.89	69.57	-2.68
Sector Index	44.38	43.39	1.00
Investment Sector			
Kuwait Investment Co.	40.32	37.24	3.08
Kuwait Int. Invest. Co.	33.68	30.24	3.44
Sector Index	37.68	34.47	3.22

UK portfolio investment increases sharply

Overseas assets' growth quickens

THIS is the second part of the article "UK economy enters its seventh year of sustained growth". The first part appeared in the Arab Times on December 27, 1987.

Other labour market indicators have improved. The number of vacancies has risen; overtime in manufacturing has increased and short-time working has fallen. The shedding of surplus labour and renewed growth have led to gains in productivity: between 1980 and 1986 output per head rose by 17 per cent of the economy as a whole and by 34 per cent in manufacturing alone.

Britain's overseas trade performance fluctuated during the 1970s. In general, imports of food, energy, raw materials and manufactured goods were greater than visible exports, which were largely manufactured goods. This deficit on visible trade was wholly or partly offset by a surplus on invisibles, which cover earnings from services, together with interest, profits and dividends, and transfers.

In the years 1980 to 1982 Britain ran surpluses on visible trade. Since then, however, imports — especially of manufactures — have risen more sharply than exports and the deficit on visible trade has reappeared. After a long period of deterioration in the balance of trade in manufactures there was a deficit in 1983 — the first since 1945. The deficit continued in the following three years. Substantial net earnings on invisible trade, however, kept the current account in surplus up to 1985, while in 1986 it was roughly in balance.

Membership of the European

Economic Community has had a major impact on Britain's pattern of trade, increasing the proportion with other member countries and reducing the share of Commonwealth trade. Between 1972 and 1986 the proportion of Britain's exports of goods going to other members of the Community rose from 34 to 48 per cent while that going to other Commonwealth countries fell from 19 to 11 per cent. Imports followed a similar trend. Trade with the newly industrialised countries, including Singapore, Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia, has risen substantially.

The strength of overseas earnings from invisibles has been maintained by the continued adaptation to new conditions, particularly following the abolition of exchange controls in 1979, and growth in world markets of insurance, banking, tourism, construction, consultancy and other services. In 1986 exports of services were valued at over one-third of exports of goods; the growth of overseas assets has resulted in high net receipts of investment income.

The substantial cumulative surplus on current account in the first half of the 1980s implies a corresponding increase in Britain's net external assets, which are estimated to have risen from £12,000 million at the end of 1979 to about £114,000 million at the end of 1986 — second in size only to those of Japan. Following the abolition of exchange controls investment outflows, particularly portfolio investment, increased sharply.

There has been an acceleration in the growth of portfolio investment since 1984, partly a reflection of investment by banks as they moved into lending in readily marketable forms (such

as floating rate notes) and away from traditional loans. British banks' sterling lending abroad has also been at a high level since the abolition of exchange controls.

The development of North Sea oil and gas production has had a significant effect on the economy; in 1987 Britain was the world's fifth largest oil producer. The benefits to the balance of payments began to appear in the second half of the 1970s; in 1980 Britain had its first surplus on oil trade. In 1974 oil accounted for some 4 per cent of Britain's visible exports and 19 per cent of visible imports; in 1986 the proportions were 11 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. The oil surplus reached its peak in 1985, at \$8,100 million. With the fall in oil prices the surplus fell to \$4,200 million in 1986. Exports, mainly to other European Economic Community countries, are equivalent to more than half of domestic production. They are partly offset in balance of payments terms by imports of other grades of crude oil from the Middle East and elsewhere.

Strategy
British government traditionally sought to influence the rate of growth and the level of employment by macroeconomic policy measures (for example, by variations in government expenditure, taxes or controls on consumer credit). At the same time they attempted to keep inflation down and to achieve approximate equilibrium in the balance of payments.

However, each time the economy expanded, inflation tended to accelerate and a strong rise in imports typically gave rise to a balance of payments problem. The effects would finally lead to the imposition of restraints on

home demand. The cyclical pattern of stimulus followed by restraint became known as "stop-go".

From the late 1960s until about 1980, increases in wage and price levels had an adverse effect on competitiveness, profitability and business confidence. This was associated with an increase in unemployment over the period. At various times governments attempted to control price rises and (less frequently) price rises by means of voluntary or statutory controls, but such policies were largely successful.

Policies
The present government has adopted economic policies which in many ways represent a break with those of its predecessors. Macroeconomic (monetary and fiscal) policies are now directed at bringing down the rate of inflation and ultimately achieving price stability.

Microeconomic policies are aimed at working with the grain of market forces by encouraging enterprise, efficiency and flexibility, and so improving the supply side performance of the economy. Together, these policies are aimed at improving the division of the increase in money GDP between output growth and inflation, and helping to create jobs.

The central aim of monetary policy is the creation of conditions that will exert steady downward pressure on the rate of growth of money GDP, so bringing down the rate of inflation. Monetary conditions are assessed in the light of movement in narrow and broad money and the behaviour of other financial indicators, in particular the exchange rate.

(Concluded)

Reagan praises new free trade pact

PALM SPRINGS, California, Jan. 2, (AP) President Reagan today praised the new free trade agreement with Canada as "a truly historic pact" that will create more jobs and lower prices for consumers in both countries.

The president was scheduled to sign the agreement, unveiled Dec 11 after months of negotiations, later in the day as he wound up an eight-day California vacation. Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney planned to sign the pact separately in Canada.

In his weekly radio address, taped in advance, Reagan called the pact "a win-win situation for both countries."

"Even more importantly, the agreement is an example of the market opening steps the entire world should be pursuing," he said.

Measures
He said the United States would begin pushing for such measures in forthcoming international trade talks in Uruguay. Reagan also criticised trade legislation pending in Congress, saying: "Protectionist measures — some of which are in the trade bills passed by the House and Senate — are backward looking, not forward looking."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Reagan would make a telephone call to the Canadian prime minister. There had been discussions of a signing ceremony involving both leaders at the US-Canadian border, but Mulroney, under political attack at home for his advocacy of the agreement, was cool to the idea. Separate signings were agreed to instead.

Yugoslavia adopts constitutional changes on economy

BELGRADE, Jan. 2, (Reuters) The Federal Chamber of the Yugoslav parliament adopted draft constitutional amendments yesterday to integrate major services and tackle the country's economic woes, the state news agency Tanjug said.

The amendments seek to streamline Yugoslavia's system of socialist self-management, decrease political control of the economy and give market laws greater sway.

The constitutional changes were initiated by Yugoslavia's nine-man state presidency last January with the stipulation that no changes be made to the fundamental tenets of Communist, non-aligned Yugoslavia's social and political system.

They must now be submitted to the parliaments of the country's disparate republics and provinces, which are certain to submit their own proposals.

Changes
The constitutional changes seek to right Yugoslavia's monumental economic difficulties, including inflation standing at 160 per cent and foreign debts of \$20 billion.

The present constitution, enacted in 1974, has been widely criticised by politicians who say its enhanced powers for the republics and provinces at the expense of the federal government is leading to the disintegration of the economy.

The amendments approved yesterday call for a more integrated national economy, unified tax laws, stimulation of exports and more central planning in technology.

Debt growth to be halted by 1991, says Grosz

BUDAPEST, Hungary, Jan. 2, (AP) Premier Karoly Grosz said in a television interview yesterday that by 1991 Hungary will seek to halt the growth of its foreign debt, which has reached \$9.3 billion.

Grosz said one goal of a new austerity programme is to reduce the growth of the foreign debt by half in 1988 to \$500 million. He said the country then would try to reduce it by half again in 1989 to a maximum of \$250 million.

He said the final goal is zero growth in the debt in 1990.

The government programme adopted by parliament in September includes Eastern Europe's first direct personal income tax and a Value-Added Tax that is to lead to overall price rises of about 15 per cent.

Grosz said the inflation rate was to remain at around 15 per cent, but added that if prices were to increase further due to unforeseen world market trends wages would be increased accordingly.

What's it worth?

By Midas

SOME of you may have read the following parable in last week's Sunday Times, but for those of you who missed it, the story is very relevant to today's markets.

Once upon a time it was a very busy day on the dealing floor and nobody had time to go out for lunch. By 2.00pm, the dealers were starving. Then one of them noticed that his neighbour was using a tin of sardines as a paper weight. "I'll give you £2 for it," he offered. The owner, having only paid 50 pence couldn't resist a 300 per cent profit, so he readily agreed.

The buyer, however, couldn't resist trying to see if he could get a bigger profit too, and less than ten minutes later he sold it to another hungry dealer for £3.

As the afternoon wore on, the tin of sardines was sold and resold until finally it ended up on the desk of the chief dealer himself who had paid £50 for it.

Price
He was earning so much money, he didn't care about the price, he was just ravenously hungry. But when he opened the tin of sardines, they had all gone bad.

Much the same sort of thing happened to the stock markets last year, prices went up and up until finally somebody tried to relate the price to the underlying assets of the companies.

That's when the sardines turned bad and everyone realised that things had become ridiculous. Dealers can never resist dealing, shares change hands over and over, the profits keep growing, but the underlying stock, the tin of sardines if you like, doesn't really change at all.

In fact, when you actually open the sardines, or look at the

stocks, you may well find that they have no intrinsic value at all.

Something similar seems to be happening in the world's largest and most overpriced market, Tokyo. Prices have reached absurd levels there, but the consequences of a major crash in Japan are so horrific that the market seems to be defying gravity for the time being.

However, reality has a relentless way of taking over, and it seems certain that sooner or later something will announce that Tokyo's sardines smell awful.

At that point we could see a collapse that will make October's debacle look like a hiccup.

The point is that everybody invests in a market which is constantly rising. Why not, it makes sense, it's the easiest way to make a fortune ever known.

Ask those who invested in the Souk al Manakhi! So long as everybody wants the sardines and the price keeps rising, nobody has the time to worry about what the sardines are really worth.

It seems a pointless question since the obvious answer is 'the sardines are worth what people will pay for them'.

But when the crash comes, suddenly everybody wakes up and says, "My God, they're just sardines, and stinking ones at that!" If something similar happens with Japanese stocks and shares the world could be propelled into a major depression so quickly that we won't know what hit us.

Fraud

Therefore, if you have any Japanese unit trusts, now might be a good time to sell them, take whatever losses you have made, stick the money into a nice big bank and sit back to see what happens.

Changing the subject, stories are circulating in Kuwait about a major stock market fraud involving four Canadian confidence tricksters who got away with about one and a half million dollars of people's hard-earned money.

The matter is still sub judice, but when it is settled I'll give you the full details of how it worked.

But for now, please remember the first rule of savings and investment, only deal with large international companies that everybody has heard of.

If it's a household name like Barclays Bank, the Swiss Bank Corporation or Citibank then you can be sure you're money is safe. Beware of institutions with grand sounding names like the International Securities Bank or the Royal National Bank of Switzerland.

Confidence

A confidence trick is all about confidence, those guys are experts at creating a sense of security and trust.

They don't wear flashy bow ties and promise you'll make millions overnight, that's too obvious.

More likely they will look as respectable as any real banker, grey business suits, briefcases stuffed with expensive printed brochures and plenty of cautious advice that sounds perfectly reasonable and sincere.

Don't be fooled. If you have never heard of their company, check with an expert. If he's never heard of them either, steer clear.

Most of us have to work too hard for our money to waste it on some crooked operator with a lot of charm and brochures.

If in doubt, check them out. No reputable company will mind if you ask around about them, they have nothing to hide, but you may have everything to lose.

Foreign Currency Selling Rates

Kuwait-India Int'l Exchange Co. Tel 2422699-2422733 2422788-3917353	Indian rupees 21.270 Sri Lankan rupees 08.880 US dollars 270.45 Pound sterling 508.25 UAE dirhams 73.750 Deutsche marks 171.000 Japanese yen 02.220	Philippine peso 13.500 Lebanese pound 607.450 Australian dollar 196.000 Indian rupees 21.110 Pakistan rupees 15.600 Sri Lankan rupees 8.915 UAE dirham 73.675 Bahraini dinar 717.600 S. Yemeni dinar 788.250 N. Yemeni rial 28.500 Saudi riyal 72.600 Qatari riyal 74.390 Omani riyal 702.850	Gold 10 tolas 495.450 Kilo 999 4220.100 Kilo 999 4237.100 Kilo 9999 4340.950
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FOLLOWING are international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait on Thursday.

US dir 26909 Stg 50521 D.M 17020 S. fr 2107 F. fr 05005 It lira 0002304 J. Yen 0021930 B. dinar 71348 UAE dir 07325 S. riyal 07173 Q. riyal 07390 O. riyal 69884	Selling 27075 50969 17180 21285 05056 0002325 0022339 71817 07340 07222 07442 70361
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Al Kazemi Int'l Exchange Co. City Br 2422770/4/6/8 Salimiyah 5751786-5740701 Ahmad: 3982251	US dollar 270.25 Sterling 508.65 Deutsche mark 171.75 Swiss franc 212.25 Japanese yen 223.00 French franc 050.80 Dutch guilder 152.55 Italian lira 233.35 Spanish peseta 025.35 Belgian franc 082.10 Greek drachma 002.17 Tunisian dinar 350.20 Cyprus pound 617.00 Bahraini dinar 717.40 UAE dirham 073.80 Lebanese pound 000.640 Saudi riyal 072.20 Jordanian dinar 806.40 Sri Lankan rupee 008.89 Canadian dollar 207.85 Philippine peso 013.05 Austrian schilling 024.50 Qatari rial 075.00 Egyptian pound 123.15 Thai baht 010.89
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Gold	Ten tolas 493.000 999 kilo bar 4230.000 995 kilo bar 4217.000
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United Trading Group, Kuwait Tel 2420115-2420116	US dollars 270.450 Sterling 508.200 Deutsche marks 171.350 Swiss francs 212.000 French francs 50.600 Japanese yen 222.230 Italian lira 231.850 Dutch guilder 152.200 Canadian dollar 208.600 Belgian francs 8.260 Spanish peseta 2.550 Austrian schilling 25.550 Cyprus pounds 613.300 Singapore dollar 137.450 Hong Kong dollar 35.850
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AMMAN	OPNG CLSG	OPNG CLSG
AL HIMME MINERALS	0.79	0.79
AL-MISER EXCHANGE	0.89	0.90
ALA-ADDIN COMPANY	1.16	1.14
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	1.85	1.83
ARAB BANK	121.721.0	121.721.0
ARAB CHEMICAL DTER	5.10	5.19
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	1.47	1.48
ARAB INSURANCE	0.96	1.02
ARAB INT. INV/TRADE	—	—
ARAB INT. UNION INS.	0.92	0.92
ARAB INT. HOTELS	0.53	0.58
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.21	2.20
ARAB PAPER/COM/TRA	0.27	0.25
ARAB PHARMA/MAF.	2.15	2.14
ARAB PHARMA/CHAMF	0.76	0.75
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	16.907.00	16.907.00
BELGIUM INSURANCE	1.00	0.95
CAIRO AMMAN BANK	24.2025.25	24.2025.25
DAR AL SHAAB PRESS	0.30	0.29
DAR ALDAHA DV/INV.	1.48	1.48
DARCO/INVEST/HQS.	0.44	0.44
DEVELOP/INVEST/FAS.	0.77	0.79

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For Rent

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SHARQ, Shamiya, Keifan or City area. One bedroom flat with living room, bathroom and kitchen for a Bangladeshi Muslim couple. Tele. Mr. Syed, 240 5127. (AT6-40390-3)

FOR RENT

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TEL. 2437522
2437533

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KD. 500/-
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KD. 300/-
Tel: 2429380 / 2457834

2 SOFAS Gateborg Ikea — two seater, 1 leather and 1 upholstered. Both beige colour, going less than 1/2 price. Like new. Tele. 5335734, till 8 pm. (AT1-40409-3)

Cars

CHEVROLET, Malibu Classic 1977, AC, automatic, dark green with cream top, 97000 kms, new tires. In excellent condition. KD 300 cash. Tele. Madhavan, 2417762, office, 2445787, res. (AT1-40412-2)

MERCEDES 200, 84 model, manual, maroon, open roof, AC and central lock. Contact Mr. Khidhr, Al-Nuzha Washing Station, beside Sultan Center, Shuwaikh. (AT1-AL-3)

NISSAN Laurel 1983, 6 cylinder, in excellent condition, KD 900, ono. Tele. 2409060, 2429302. (AT6-40402-3)

JAGUAR XJ6, 1979, no engine, needs new blue book. KD 150. Tele. 3947564, 3.30 - 7 pm. (AT3-40312-6)

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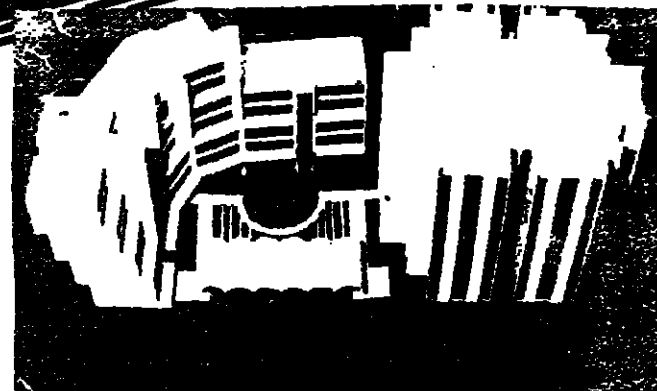
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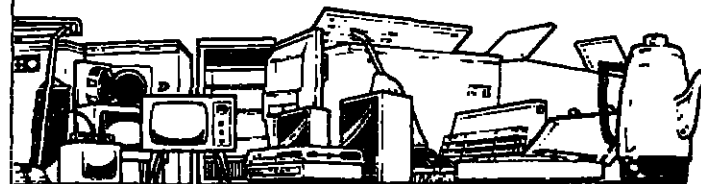
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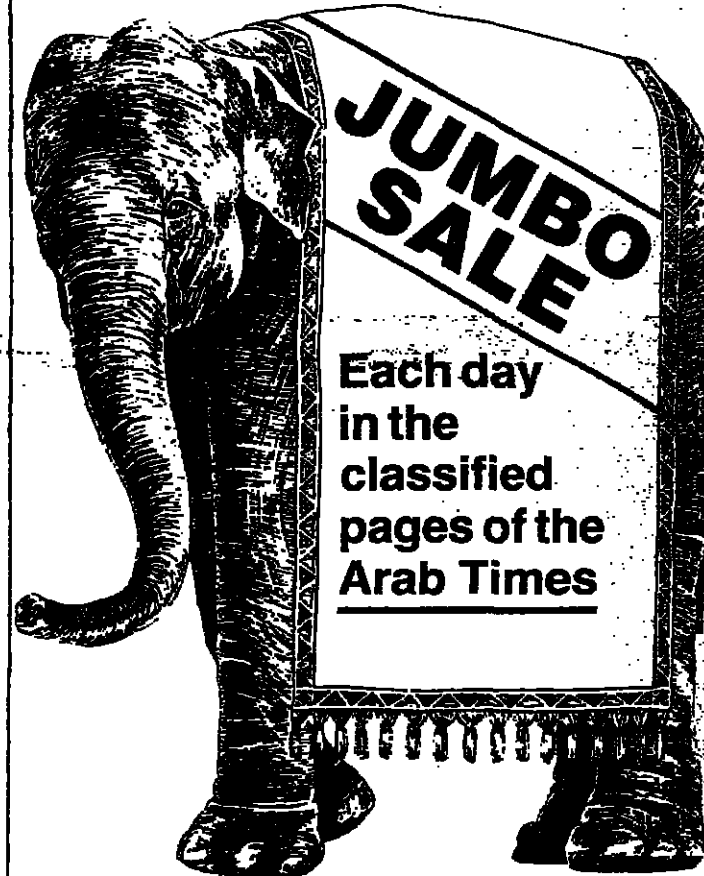


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القدس کے مشرقی علاقہ اور دہلیز میں ہڑتال ہفت روزہ کے شکاریوں نے شہر کو گولیوں سے گھیر لیا

بائیں میں اسرائیلی فوجیوں کی مظاہرین پر فائرنگ، ایک شخص زخمی

دہلیز اور ۲۴ مئی میں مظاہرین کا اسرائیلی فوجیوں سے جھڑپ

تل ابیب ۲۴ جنوری (اے۔ پی۔) - القدس کے مشرقی علاقہ اور دہلیز میں فلسطینیوں نے ہڑتال کر رکھی ہے۔ شکاریوں نے شہر کو گولیوں سے گھیر لیا ہے۔ اسرائیلی فوجیوں کی مظاہرین پر فائرنگ، ایک شخص زخمی۔

مظاہرین کا دہلیز پر قبضہ کرنا اور اسرائیلی فوجیوں کے خلاف ہڑتال کا اعلان کیا۔ مظاہرین نے شہر کو گولیوں سے گھیر لیا ہے۔ اسرائیلی فوجیوں کی مظاہرین پر فائرنگ، ایک شخص زخمی۔

بنگلہ دیش میں اپوزیشن نے نئے پارلیمانی انتخابات کے بائیکاٹ کا اعلان کر دیا

انتخابی ماحول میں بددیانتی اور ہڑتالوں کا سلسلہ جاری رکھا جائیگا، البطلی کمیٹی کا بیان

دھاکہ ۲۴ جنوری (اے۔ پی۔) - بنگلہ دیش میں اپوزیشن کی جماعتوں نے نئے پارلیمانی انتخابات کا بائیکاٹ کر دیا ہے۔ انہوں نے کہا کہ انتخابات میں بددیانتی اور ہڑتالوں کا سلسلہ جاری رکھا جائیگا۔ البطلی کمیٹی کا بیان ہے کہ انتخابات میں بددیانتی اور ہڑتالوں کا سلسلہ جاری رکھا جائیگا۔

خبریں میں یمن کی جنگ میں عراق کا کردار

یہ عراقیوں کا کردار ہے۔ عراقیوں نے یمن کی جنگ میں ایک اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔

یمن کی جنگ میں عراق کا کردار ایک اہم کردار ہے۔ عراقیوں نے یمن کی جنگ میں ایک اہم کردار ادا کیا ہے۔

خوست کی لڑائی میں افغان مجاہدین کا کمانڈر زخمی ہو گیا

خوست کی لڑائی میں افغان مجاہدین کا کمانڈر زخمی ہو گیا۔

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افغان مجاہدین کی طرف سے عراقیوں کے خلاف دعوے کی تردید

افغان مجاہدین کی طرف سے عراقیوں کے خلاف دعوے کی تردید۔

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ایران کی لڑائی میں افغان مجاہدین کا کمانڈر زخمی ہو گیا

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پاکستان میں اسلام آباد کی پریس اور کارکنان نے ہڑتال کر دی

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بھارتی سرحد پر افغان مجاہدین کی گشت گردی

بھارتی سرحد پر افغان مجاہدین کی گشت گردی۔

بھارتی سرحد پر افغان مجاہدین کی گشت گردی۔

مشرقاں کا قتل

مشرقاں کا قتل۔

مشرقاں کا قتل۔

بھارتی سرحد پر افغان مجاہدین کی گشت گردی

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College Football

Walsh helps Miami beat Oklahoma for title

NEW YORK, Jan. 2, (AP): The Miami Hurricanes, a championship contender the last two years before losing Bowl games, won the national title by defeating No. 1 Oklahoma 20-14 in the Orange Bowl behind Steve Walsh's two touchdowns and a dominating defense.

Yesterday's win gave Miami a 12-0 record and left little doubt that the Hurricanes, the only unbeaten-undefeated team in the nation, will be crowned national champions for the second time in five years when the Associated Press releases its final poll tomorrow.

The Sooners finished 11-1 and had the nation's longest winning streak snapped at 20 games.

Greg Cox, Miami's career scoring leader and the 12th player in NCAA history to pass the 300-point mark, sent a 56-yard field goal, the first of two, soaring well over the crossbar at 6:08 of the third period for a 10-7 lead.

Averaged

Miami's defence bottled up the potent Oklahoma attack, which averaged nearly 500 yards per game during the regular season, including 428 on the ground.

Walsh, whose 30-yard pass to fullback Melvin Bratton opened the scoring just 3:28 into the game, added a 23-yard touch down pass to flanker Michael Irvin at 12:23 of the third quarter.

In other Bowl games yesterday, No. 4 Syracuse and No. 6 Auburn tied 16-16 in the Sugar Bowl, No. 3 Florida State edged No. 5 Nebraska 31-28 in the Fiesta, No. 13 Texas A-and-M beat No. 12 Notre Dame 35-10 in the Cotton, No. 14 Clemson downed No. 20 Penn State 35-10 in the Citrus, and No. 8 Michigan State beat No. 16 Southern California 20-17 in the Rose.

The first Sugar Bowl tie in history spoiled Syracuse's bid for a perfect season and ended their slim chances of a national championship.

Auburn had a chance to win in the final seconds, but Tigers coach Pat Dye decided to go for the game-tying 30-yard field goal by Vinny.

Lefty Burger completed 1 of 12 passes in the final Auburn drive. The Tigers drove to the Syracuse 13, where they called timeout with four seconds left. Lyle's field goal went through the uprights with one second left.

Fiesta Bowl

Florida State quarterback Danny McManus had a record-setting day in Tempe, Arizona. McManus completed 28 of 51 attempts for 375 yards and three touchdowns. The attempts and yardage were Fiesta Bowl records, while the three touchdowns tied the bowl record.

Cotton Bowl

Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown had a rough homecoming in Dallas. The Notre Dame star had 238 all-purpose yards, but he was involved in an embarrassing incident midway through the fourth quarter.

Citrus Bowl

In Orlando, Florida, Rodney Williams passed for 214 yards and Tracy Johnson scored three touchdowns as Clemson handed Penn State its worst Bowl defeat ever.

Williams' passing was complemented by a powerful rushing attack that produced 285 yards against the nation's 12th-ranked defense.

Penn State, the defending national champion, finished 8-4 this season. Clemson, the Atlantic Coast Conference champion, wound up 10-2.

Advantage

Chesnokov lost the first set 4-6 won the second, 6-3, but had to survive a match point at 6-5 in the final set before climbing back to claim the advantage 9-7.

"He quick served me when I had match point. I wasn't ready for it," Pridham said afterwards. "I looked up and the ball was right there. If I'd have had more time I think I could have played it. It's hard to take."

It's my type of tennis. I play some points quickly, others slower. It's frustrating because I felt I earned that match."

Chesnokov later admitted he

AMARNATH AND ARUN PUT ON 128 RUNS FOR 2ND WICKET

Shastri shines as India beat W. Indies

CALCUTTA, Jan. 2, (Reuters): Ravi Shastri shone in his assumed role as Indian captain by leading his team to their first one-day international victory at home over West Indies today.

India, with a 55-run triumph in the third one-day international, reduced the West Indies' lead in the eight-match series to 2-1. India made 222 for seven in 45 overs and West Indies replied with 167 in 41.5 overs.

India now have four wins to West Indies' 13 in one-day internationals between the two sides.

Inspired

Shastri, temporary replacement for the injured Dilip Vengsarkar, inspired his side in front of nearly 85,000 fans with a superb display of left-arm spin bowling which earned him figures of 9-1-31-2 on a placid-looking pitch at the Eden Gardens.

Shastri used medium pacers Kapil Dev and Sanjeev Sharma in an excellent spell of seam bowling before turning to spin.

Desmond Haynes was trapped leg before by Kapil Dev and Sharma was equally effective, worrying Gordon Greenidge and Richie Richardson with his late swinging deliveries.

But Greenidge coped with the slow bowling of Maninder Singh to score 44, with three fours and one six. Richardson made 28 before he was run out.



Shastri inspired his squad

Maninder, who conceded only 19 runs in nine overs, had captain Viv Richards caught by Arun Lal for three in the 18th over and the touring team fell deeper into trouble at 92 for four when Maninder forced Greenidge into

spoiling a catch to Mohinder Amarnath at mid-on.

Carl Hooper and Gus Logie raised West Indies' hopes with a 66-run partnership before Kapil Dev beat Hooper to gain an lbw decision. His dismissal sparked a

collapse which saw the last six wickets go down for only 15 runs.

India's total owed much to a second-wicket century stand between Arun Lal and Mohinder Amarnath. They put on 128 after Krishnamachari Srikkanth had lost his wicket to the 11th ball of the match. Amarnath made 70 before being run out and Arun 51.

The Indian innings looked like disintegrating when four wickets crashed for the addition of only 10 runs, but Mohammed Azharuddin and Shastri stopped the rot by adding 54 for the sixth wicket.

Azharuddin made 44 from 57 balls before becoming another run-out victim and Shastri scored 25.

Scoreboard

INDIA
K. Srikkanth c Dujon b Walsh 1
Arun Lal c Greenidge b Hooper 51
M. Amarnath run out 70
S. Sharma c Richardson b Richards 50
M. Azharuddin run out 44
K. Dev c Benjamin b Richards 1
R. Shastri lbw b Patterson 25
W. Ramesh not out 8
K. More not out 9
Extras (lb-6 w-2 nb-1) 13
Total (for seven) 222

Did not bat: A. Sharma, M. Singh
Fall of wickets: 1-22-130, 3-131, 4-138 5-140 6-194, 7-210.
Bowling: P. Patterson 9-0-36-1, C. Walsh 9-2-26-1, A. Baptiste 5-0-23-0,

W. Benjamin 5-0-29-0, V. Richards 9-0-48-2, C. Hooper 8-0-50-1.

WEST INDIES:

G. Greenidge c Amarnath b Maninder Singh 44
D. Haynes lbw b Kapil Dev 3
R. Richardson run out 28
V. Richards c Lal b Maninder Singh 3
G. Logie c Azharuddin b Shastri 39
C. Hooper lbw b Kapil Dev 27
W. Benjamin c and b Shastri 1
J. Dujon run out 2
E. Baptiste lbw b Amarnath 6
P. Patterson not out 3
C. Walsh c sub b S. Sharma 9
Extras (lb-6 w-2 nb-1) 167
Total (all out) 41.5 overs
Fall of wickets: 1-12-23 2-34 3-45 4-92 5-152 6-153 7-153 8-153 9-162.

Bowling: Kapil Dev 7-1-20-2, S. Sharma 5.5-0-29-1, Amarnath 9-0-46-1, Shastri 9-1-31-2, Maninder Singh 9-0-19-2, A. Sharma 2-0-16-0.

● In an unrelated incident a sartorial slipup by Richards spoiled his plans for spending New Year's Eve at a Calcutta nightclub.

Richards, accompanied by Indian film star Nina Gupta, was barred from the Saturday Club party because his jeans, sports shirt and blazer did not make the grade.

"Our rules do not permit entry to members or guests coming without a suit and tie on formal occasions," said a Saturday Club spokesman. "We do not see why we should bend our rules just because he is a famous cricketer."

Vincent takes Nuggets past Bullets

NEW YORK, Jan. 2, (AP): Michael Adams thought it was just a chance to see some old friends, but Jay Vincent admitted he had personal reasons for wanting to beat the Washington Bullets.

Adams and Vincent, who were traded by Washington to Denver on Nov. 2, both made big contributions to the Nuggets' 134-109 NBA victory last night.

"I think I said at the time that they were giving up on me too soon," said Vincent, who was 15-for-20 from the field and matched his season high with 33 points. "To this day I still say it."

Vincent, who went to the Bullets in a trade with Dallas before the 1986-87 season, ruptured a tendon in his shooting hand in the first exhibition game and missed the first 30 games of last season. He struggled while getting back into game condition.

In other NBA games, New York defeated the Los Angeles Clippers 115-96 and Portland edged Philadelphia 127-125.

Terry Catledge scored a season-high 27 points and Jeff Malone added 20 for the Bullets. New York handed Los Angeles its fifth straight loss as Kenny Walker scored 25 points for the second straight game and Gerald Wilkins added 20. Mike Woodson led the Clippers with a season-high 36 points.

Trail Blazers 127, 76ers 125
Clyde Drexler tied the score with two free throws, then stole the inbound pass at midcourt and drove for a layup at the buzzer, giving Portland its comeback victory over Philadelphia. Jerome Kersey scored a career-high 36 points for Portland. Charles Barkley had 37 points for Philadelphia.

Johnston brought Sweet 'N Cool from fifth at the turn to take the lead in a 1,900 metres handicap but veered out when challenged and drifted way out from the rail and bumped the eventual winner at the post.

"I've probably been a bit careless," admitted the Australian, who was given a three-week suspension.

Australian jockey suspended for 40th time

SYDNEY, Australia, Jan. 2, (Reuters): Jockey Malcolm Johnston was suspended for the 40th time in his career after being found guilty of careless riding at Canterbury here today.

Johnston had returned to riding two weeks ago after serving his 39th suspension.

"This is making me out to be a complete imbecile - I've avoided trouble, I'm trying," he said.

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Shriver and Novotna outclass opponents

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan. 2, (UPI): Top-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States will face 11th seeded Czechoslovakian Jana Novotna in the final tomorrow of the \$162,000 Women's Tennis Classic at Milton Courts.

Shriver scored her third straight set victory here today when she took just 55 minutes to oust West Germany's Claudia Kohde-Kilsch 6-4, 6-0, while Novotna downed unseeded Californian Patty Fendick 7-5, 6-1.

Shriver, 25, who is celebrating her 10th year on the pro circuit, qualified for her 39th singles final with another faultless display of serve and volley tennis.

She ended a competitive first set against the world ranked number 10 Kohde-Kilsch with an ace and then raced to victory in the second set conceding only five points in the last six games.

"I am returning well and serving well and that makes the pressure mount on my opponent," Shriver said after the game.

"That is where you want them to be - under the gun."

Novotna, 19, showed no signs of big match nerves in her first major semifinal and she coasted to a 5-2 lead in the first set.

But then Fendick, the 22-year-old two-time NCAA champion from San Francisco, began making more of an impression at the

Nuggets past Bullets

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Dodemaide and Waugh star as Aussies rout Sri Lankans in opener



Waugh: Man of the Match

PERTH, Australia, Jan. 2, (Reuters): All-rounder Tony Dodemaide followed his Test debut haul of seven wickets against New Zealand last week with five wickets today as Australia crushed Sri Lanka by 81 runs in the opening match of the World Series Cup one-day competition.

Dodemaide took five for 21 in 7.4 overs in the first one-day international, wrapping up the Sri Lankan innings for 168 with wickets off the first two balls of the 45th over.

Unbeaten
But the Man-of-the-Match award went to another all-rounder, Steve Waugh.

He struck an entertaining unbeaten 35 in Australia's 50-over score of 249 for seven and then weighed in with three for 34 from his 10 overs.

Only some spirited resistance by tailenders Guy de Alwis and Graeme Labrooy saved Sri Lanka from a bigger hiding.

Wicketkeeper de Alwis came in with the score at 78 for six in the 29th over and stayed to score 44 off 41 deliveries before being caught at deep backward square leg off Dodemaide.

He and Labrooy, who scored 33, put on 50 in 29 minutes for the ninth wicket.

Dean Jones, who averaged only 13 in the just completed Test series against New Zealand, showed a welcome return to form with a punishing 55 off 63 deliveries after the Australians had been put in.

Ranked
Masur, 24, and ranked 35th in the world, will face compatriot Mark Woodforde in tomorrow's final of the 32-draw Nabisco Grand Prix event at Adelaide's Memorial Drive courts.

Woodforde, a left-hander and the third seed, eased to a 6-1, 6-4 victory over 16-year-old Swedish-born Australian Johan Anderson in the other semifinal.

Anderson, ranked 295th in the world, was playing the first Grand Prix semifinal of his career and was unable to match Woodforde's consistency.

"I've been playing better with each match I've played here, so I have to give myself a big chance in the final," Woodforde said.

Masur, who beat Woodforde in their only previous meeting seldom was extended by an out-of-touch Fitzgerald.

"Fitzzy never got his teeth into the match. I felt sorry for him," Masur said.

Van Rensburg and Shriver top seeds
SYDNEY, Australia, Jan. 2, (AP): South African Christo Van Rensburg and American Pam Shriver were named as top seeds for the \$325,000 New South Wales Open tennis championships, which begin Monday.

Van Rensburg was given a last-minute wild card into the 32-draw men's event after his original entry had been misplaced by tournament organizers.

He is seeded ahead of Australian Davis Cup player Wally Masur, Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union and Peter Doochan of Australia.

Van Rensburg faces 16-year-old Swedish-born Australian Johan Anderson in his first round match of the Nabisco Grand Prix series event, which will be played on grass courts.

Masur will tangle with American Marc Flur, while Chesnokov plays South African Danie Visser and Doochan is drawn to meet Italian Gianlucca Pozzi.

Shriver has been given a bye in the first round of the 56-draw women's event, which comprises part of the Virginia Slims series.

Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia is the No. 2 seed, ahead of Claudia Kohde-Kilsch of West Germany and her compatriot Sylvia Hanika. Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden, Australians Wendy Turnbull and Elizabeth Smylie and Etsuko Inoue of Japan.

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Aquino aims to stop Curry

Thomas seeks early knockout against Rosi

GENOA, Italy, Jan. 2, (AP): Duane Thomas of the United States is looking for an early knockout in the World Boxing Council junior middleweight (super-welterweight) title fight against Gianfranco Rosi.

"Fewer rounds, fewer risks," said Thomas, who wants to win back the crown he lost to Mexican Lupe Aquino in July.

Thomas, 26, meets the current title-holder, Rosi, in Genoa in the 12-round match early Monday.

Tactics
The 30-year-old Italian, who upset Aquino in Perugia on Oct. 2, has different expectations and talks of different tactics.

"I will retain the title through a point decision. But I will have to take the initiative from the very

first round. I must box him throughout," Rosi said.

"I studied his most recent fights. He is vulnerable on rhythm. He is worn out, physically and psychologically. I am in better form now than during the Aquino match," said Rosi, a technical boxer who uses his left jab to open the way to precise combinations.

Rosi and Thomas both conceded that the unusual time forced them to change training systems and way of life.

"I had some problems in getting used to late-night fighting," said Thomas.

The winner of this fight will defend the title April 8 against the winner of a 10-round semifinal bout one hour earlier Monday between Don Curry of the

United States and Aquino.

Curry, 26, is desperately chasing a title chance after suffering two bitter upsets against Lloyd Honeyghan and Mike McCallum.

Honeyghan cost him the world welterweight crown in Atlantic City on Nov. 27, 1986. McCallum knocked out "The Cobra" in Las Vegas in July as Curry made a try at the world junior middleweight title.

Target

Curry refused to talk to reporters as the match approached. "My punches are going to talk on the ring," he said.

Aquino, two years younger than Curry, said the American's jaw will be his prime target. "I can't think of outpunching

Vera sets sights on 1988 Games

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Jan. 2, (AP): Orlando Vera, the Ecuadorian athlete who won the 63rd New Year's Eve St Silvester foot race in South America's largest city, yesterday said his next major objective was the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

It was the second consecutive St Silvester victory for the 22-year-old Vera, a physica education student at the Central University of Ecuador.

Vera, who ran the 13 kilometre race in 39 minutes and 2 seconds said, "The St Silvester race was the start of my preparations for the Olympics, now the most important objective in my career as an athlete."

Ecuador's Martha Tenorio, 21, won the women's St Silvester clocking in at 46 minutes and 27 seconds.

Vera, who specialises in 5,000- and 10,000-metre races, said that prior to the Olympics he planned to participate in four track and field events in the United States, two in Ecuador and two in Europe. He did not specify which events.

Barely
In 1987, the Ecuadorian athlete had what he called an excellent year, having won a silver medal in the 10,000-metre race at the Pan American Games and coming in 10th at the World Track and Field Championship in Rome.

He said he hoped his victory would encourage the Ecuadorian government "and the governments of other Latin American countries to pay more attention to and give more support to track and field athletes."

Showing two bruised knees and a small gash on the right side of his forehead, Vera said "I barely took my first three steps at the start of the race when I fell to the ground and was stepped on by several runners."

Vera, who for a while was in the lead with Mexico's Dionisio Ceron Bizarro, said he felt he had won the race when "I sprinted ahead and placed 30 metres between myself and the Mexican."

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SPORTS

Standings

English and Scottish League soccer tables after matches played today (table under played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points).

English Division One									
Liverpool	22	17	5	0	55	11	56		
Nottingham Forest	21	13	4	4	44	18	43		
Arsenal	24	12	6	6	36	21	42		
Manchester U	25	11	9	3	36	22	42		
Wimbledon	24	11	7	6	38	28	40		
QPR	24	11	7	6	30	27	40		
Everton	23	10	7	6	32	16	37		
Luton	23	9	5	9	31	26	32		
Tottenham	24	9	5	10	24	27	32		
Sheffield Wed	24	9	4	11	28	38	31		
Chelsea	24	8	6	10	31	39	30		
Newcastle	23	7	8	8	28	35	29		
Southampton	22	7	8	9	27	34	28		
West Ham	24	6	9	9	27	34	27		
Norwich	23	7	3	13	23	30	24		
Derby	22	6	10	10	20	27	24		
Coventry	22	6	10	12	26	34	22		
Oxford	22	6	13	26	44	22	22		
Portsmouth	23	4	9	10	20	40	21		

English Division Two									
Aston Villa	28	14	10	4	45	24	52		
Crystal P	27	15	4	8	60	43	49		
Middlesbrough	27	14	7	6	37	20	49		
Hull	28	15	4	9	47	35	49		
Blackburn	27	13	9	5	38	26	48		
Bradford	28	14	6	8	42	35	48		
Wolves	27	13	7	7	40	26	46		
Leeds	26	12	9	5	37	31	45		
Sheff Wed	27	12	8	7	37	32	44		
Manchester C	27	12	6	9	35	38	42		
Wendaville	26	12	5	9	48	36	41		
Barnley	26	10	10	10	40	36	36		
Plymouth	28	10	12	6	43	36	36		
Stoke	28	10	12	6	43	36	36		
Birmingham	28	9	8	12	32	35	31		
Oldham	27	8	7	12	32	31	31		
Bournemouth	27	8	7	12	36	43	31		
West Brom	27	8	7	12	36	43	31		
Sheff Utd	26	5	10	13	26	40	25		
Leicester	26	6	14	13	41	24	24		

English Division Three									
Sunderland	26	16	7	3	54	24	55		
Nottingham	26	14	9	3	50	28	51		
Walsall	26	13	9	4	42	26	48		
Wigan	25	13	7	5	42	33	46		
Brighton	26	11	11	4	36	28	44		
Brentford	26	12	8	6	35	31	44		
Bristol C	25	11	7	7	48	41	40		
Northampton	26	9	11	6	39	29	38		
Blackpool	25	9	9	7	38	27	36		
Fulham	26	10	10	6	38	33	36		
Aldershot	24	11	3	10	45	33	36		
Gillingham	26	8	11	7	51	36	35		
Bury	26	8	10	8	39	39	34		
Chesham	26	12	4	12	25	42	34		
Rotherham	26	8	8	30	31	38	32		
Manfield	25	8	7	10	31	30	31		
Chesham	26	7	10	9	32	39	31		
Bristol R	25	8	6	11	41	45	27		
Port Vale	25	7	6	12	27	37	30		
Preston	26	6	8	12	23	37	26		
Grimsby	26	6	5	15	31	41	23		
Southend	26	5	7	14	35	52	22		

English Division Four									
Wolves	25	15	5	4	44	20	50		
Leyton O	26	13	7	6	36	36	46		
Colchester	26	14	4	8	36	26	46		
Cardiff	25	12	7	6	36	28	43		
Southport	26	11	9	6	44	34	42		
Bolton	25	12	6	7	34	25	42		
Torquay	24	12	5	7	38	25	41		
Darlington	25	11	6	8	42	35	39		
Scarborough	26	10	8	8	35	29	38		
Barnley	26	12	5	10	33	40	37		
Hartlepool	26	10	7	7	32	29	37		
Crewe	26	8	12	6	39	33	36		
Swansea	26	10	10	7	37	36	36		
Cambridge	26	10	11	3	33	31	35		
Peterborough	25	10	10	3	31	32	35		
Halifax	24	9	7	8	31	29	33		
Hereford	26	8	10	23	30	32	29		
Wrexham	25	8	12	28	34	29	29		
Tranmere	26	9	14	32	34	28	28		
Exeter	25	7	12	33	39	27	27		
Carlisle	25	7	14	40	36	25	25		
Stockport	26	6	14	23	37	24	24		

Scottish Premier Division									
Celtic	28	18	8	2	53	18	44		
Aberdeen	28	15	11	2	42	15	41		
Hearts	28	15	10	3	48	22	40		
Rangers	27	16	5	6	48	19	37		
Dundee	28	14	6	8	34	32	34		
Hibernian	28	7	11	10	26	31	25		
Dundee U	27	7	11	9	25	35	25		
St Mirren	28	7	10	11	32	35	24		
Motherwell	27	5	16	19	19	39	19		

Scottish Division One									
Hamilton	26	16	6	5	50	26	38		
Raith	28	16	3	9	61	42	35		
Meadowbank	28	12	8	8	44	35	32		
Airdrieonians	28	11	8	9	44	42	30		
Clydebank	28	13	4	11	34	39	30		
Forfar	28	9	11	8	46	39	29		
Clyde	28	12	4	12	58	48	28		
Partick	28	9	7	12	43	39	25		
Queen of S	27	11	10	36	52	25	25		

Scottish Division Two									
Ayr	22	17	3	2	58	16	37		
St Johnstone	22	14	6	2	43	12	34		
Brechin	22	13	5	4	32	18	31		
Queen's P	22	12	4	6	36	25	28		
Stirling	22	9	6	7	29	33	24		
Arbroath	22	8	7	36	36	22	22		
Albion	22	6	7	26	34	21	21		
Montrose	22	8	4	10	27	29	20		
East Fife	21	6	8	7	26	28	20		
Alloa	22	4	11	30	30	19	19		
Cowdenbeath	22	4	10	31	48	16	16		

MCCLAIR HELPS UNITED OVERCOME WATFORD

Two-goal McAvennie brushes aside Rangers

LONDON, Jan 2. (Reuters) Two goals by Celtic striker Frank McAvennie crushed Scottish soccer champions Rangers 2-0 in the traditional New Year clash of the Glasgow arch-rivals today.

With runaway English League leaders Liverpool out of action because of a flooded pitch and second-placed Nottingham Forest not playing until tomorrow, attention focused firmly on the top of the Scottish Premier League, with 61,000 fervent supporters crammed into Celtic's ground.

The fixture, always a passionate affair, was loaded with an extra dimension on this occasion. When the two teams last met, in October, three players, including McAvennie, were sent off and, along with Rangers' Graham Roberts, later charged by police with conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace.

Managers and officials were hoping desperately there would be no repeat this time and mercifully the players seemed to be on their best behaviour.

McAvennie deservedly put the home side ahead of the stroke of half-time with a fine goal following a shift and incisive build-up.

Celtic continued to create the better chances but the decisive goal six minutes from time followed a slice of Rangers misfortune.

Goalkeeper Chris Woods, another of the four charged by police, had to go off with a chest injury. Roberts took over and within a minute McAvennie struck again.

The win keeps Celtic on top of the League and they are now seven points clear of fourth-placed Rangers, who have a game in hand.

There was worse news for Rangers after the game when it was discovered Woods had a suspected broken rib and could be out of action for six weeks.

Celtic's nearest challengers, Aberdeen and Hearts, both lost a little ground after surprisingly being held to goalless draws at home to Dundee United and Hibernian.

Celtic have a three-point lead over Aberdeen, who are one ahead of Hearts and four clear of Rangers.

In England, third-placed Arsenal had a chance to overtake Nottingham Forest but could only draw 0-0 at home to Queen's Park Rangers in an undistinguished game.

The other clash of London rivals, between Chelsea and Tottenham, also ended goalless.

Fourth-placed Manchester United won 1-0 at bottom club

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Fourth-placed Manchester United won 1-0 at bottom club



McClair (right): scored the only goal for United

Watford, thanks to a 17th minute goal by Brian McClair.

But it was Watford who forced much of the pace, with United

looking not the faintest championship threat to Liverpool whose game at Derby was called off earlier in the day.

Liverpool stay 13 points clear of Nottingham Forest and 14 ahead of Arsenal, who have played two more games than the title favourites.

Wimbledon continued their surge up their table, recording their fifth win in succession when they demolished lowly Oxford 5-2 away after leading 3-0 at half-time.

The victory, which lifted the Londoners to fifth place, came with goals from Alan Cork (2), Carlton Fairweather, Lawrie Sanchez and John Fashanu.

Newcastle United, who upset Nottingham Forest yesterday were held to a 2-2 draw at home to Sheffield Wednesday.

Results									
English Division One									
Arsenal	0	QPR	0						
Chelsea	0	Tottenham	0						
Coventry v Norwich	postponed								
Derby v Liverpool	postponed								
Newcastle	2	Sheff Wed	2						
Oxford	2	Wimbledon	5						
Watford	0	Manchester U	1						
West Ham	1	Luton	1						
English Division Two									
Barnley	1	Aston Villa	3						
Birmingham	1	Swindon	1						
Bradford	1	Stoke	4						
Huddersfield	1	Blackburn	2						
Leicester	4	Crystal P	4						
Man City	1	Sheff Utd	3						
Reading v Bournemouth									
postponed									

13 injured in Cyprus' worst football riot

NICOSIA, Jan 2. (Reuters) Thirteen people including two policemen were injured today in what sports authorities said was the worst football riot to erupt in Cyprus.